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FROM THE TECH LOVERS TO THE ECO-FRIENDLY, METRO'S HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE PAGES 29-32

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One more option for travellers

Holiday transportation. Student-run bus service now being offered to the general public

For Londoners travelling this holiday season, there are now more choices on how you get from Point A to Point B.

The LondonRocket, a student-run bus service, is gearing up for the Christmas travelling season.

Started in London by Western University's Brett Heron and Nancy Li, along with two students at Queens University in Kingston, the LondonRocket launched in early November as a low-cost alternative to traditional service providers Greyhound and Via Rail.

"We want to provide the best and inexpensive service we can," said Heron. "To do this, we are working with Parkinson bus lines where we charter school buses.

"I know many people wonder how comfortable a school bus can be, but modern school buses are more than comfortable — and the cost savings will outweigh any negative thoughts they may have."

A one-way ticket on the LondonRocket to Toronto will cost passengers $20 (taxes included) and they can be purchased and paid for online.

By comparison, there is a Via 6-Pak for Youth, $183 (plus tax and service charges), or $30.50 per trip. Greyhound offers one-way webfare discounts from as low as $19 (plus taxes) on selected days only, other times the webfare rate varies.

In December, once exams are completed, LondonRocket will be running three buses on Dec. 18, 19 and 20 — one each to Oakville, Mississauga, and Toronto. The cost of fares to Oakville and Mississauga are $18 each and $20 to Toronto, all taxes included.

Since launching the service this month, LondonRocket has amassed an email list of more than 2,100 people and recorded more than 10,000 web-page views of their London and Kingston websites, Heron said.

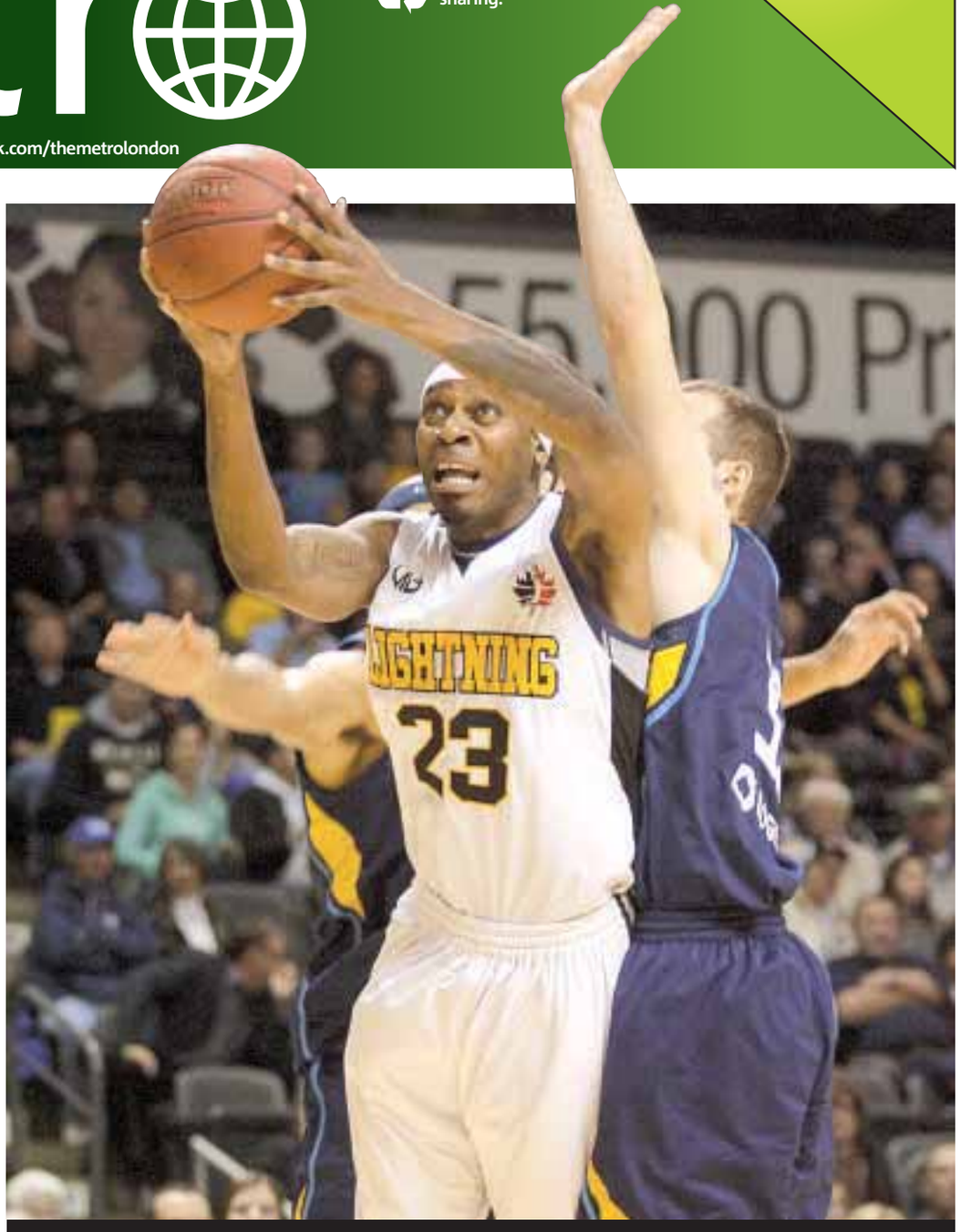
A Via spokesman told Metro it was too early to assess how the new service would affect train ridership. Greyhound did not respond to an interview request.

MARK SPOWART/FOR METRO

Pickup/drop-off

LondonRocket is in talks with Western University administration to arrange pickup and drop-off locations on campus.

- **Online travel resources:**
  viarail.ca/en
  greyhound.ca
  londonrocket.ca



LIGHTNING SUBDUE RATS

Tim Ellis, 23, of the London Lightning sneaks between two Saint John Mill Rats during the first half of a National Basketball League of Canada game at Budweiser Gardens on Thursday night. The Lightning defeated the Mill Rats 113-82. MARK SPOWART/FOR METRO

NEWS 1

Women's abuse. Shine the Light campaign raises $63,000

Londoners raised a record $63,000 for the London Abused Women's Centre during this year's Shine the Light on Women's Abuse campaign, officials said.

"We are so excited," said Meghan Walker, executive director of the centre. "We have always said this city is overwhelmingly generous. We are reading all the time about high unemployment rates, and yet this is a record."

Through a partnership with 22 local Shoppers Drug Marts, customers were asked if they wanted to purchase one of four symbols for a "Tree of Life," with each symbol having a monetary value ranging from $1 to $50.

"Women's health is major focus for Shoppers Drug Mart, and this campaign was near and dear to our staff," said Jamie Paneras, owner of the Wellington and Commissioners location.

Money raised this year will be used by the London Abused Women's Centre to provide frontline care to abused women who either call or show up at the centre.

MARK SPOWART/FOR METRO

Meghan Walker, executive director of the London Abused Women's Centre. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Lincoln McCardle, Movember's London chapter president, twirls his 'stache one last time before the big shave-off Friday at David E. White on the corner of Richmond Street and Queens Avenue. MARK SPOWART/FOR METRO

London Movember raises record $250K

Annual moustache-growing campaign. Western University nearly tripled dollars raised, bringing in more than $100,000

MARK SPOWART
london@metronews.ca

Wait for it ... that collective sigh of relief you are hearing is wives, girlfriends and partners across London celebrating the end of Movember.

This year's annual moustache-growing campaign in London will surpass 2011 fundraising numbers.

Last year, London men grew enough facial hair to raise $200,000. As of Thursday, 2012 fundraising sat at $250,000, with additional money still expected to roll in.

"Well, I think London is a pretty charitable community," said Lincoln McCardle, president of the London chapter. "Whether it is a food drive or Movember, we always step up and either meet or surpass the goal."

As a result of last year's success, London was awarded a wrap-up gala, which took place Thursday night at Jim Bob Ray's on Richmond Street.

"Up until now, the gala's have been happening in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver and Calgary," said McCardle. "We wanted to have a gala. I told the guys in Toronto (head office), pick a number — don't tell me — but if we hit it, I want a gala in London. And we did. It is a chance to thank the people who registered, hand out a few awards and have some fun."

Growing trend

1M

Worldwide participation exceeded one million for the first time. Canada was second to the United Kingdom in registrations.

This year, 60 per cent of the money collected in Canada will still go to prostrate-cancer research with the remaining 40 per cent being directed towards men's mental health. Each year, participating countries decide how the money will be allocated.

For men looking for a professional to take off their month-long growth, there are a number of "shave-off" events around the city Friday. One will be at David E. White at the corner of Richmond Street and Queens Avenue. For a $20 donation, your prized 'stache will be professionally removed. Organizers are hoping to set a Guinness World Record for the most number of shaves given in a day.

Started in Australia in 2003, the craze found its way to Canadian men by 2007, and in the last couple of years, Canada has set the pace in terms of fundraising. Money raised has traditionally gone toward prostate-cancer research, which is the most frequently diagnosed cancer in men, according to Health Canada.

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Lucky Las Vegas

Western Fair gets international recognition

The Western Fair District's signature event won four first-place, three second and one third-place awards at this week's International Association of Fairs & Exhibitions in Las Vegas. METRO

Crime Stoppers

Cops investigate pharmacy robbery

London police are seeking the public's help after a pharmacy was robbed Nov. 11. Anyone with information is asked to call police at 519-661-5670, Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), or visit london-crimestoppers.com. METRO

Police released this picture of a suspect in a pharmacy robbery. CONTRIBUTED

Celebrate the holidays

Wortley Village invites you

Wortley Village's retailers are inviting Londoners to celebrate the holidays on Saturday. The day will include breakfast with Santa at Landon Library and the lighting of Wortley Village's Christmas tree, among other events. METRO

London Food Bank

CAA food drive this weekend

Canadian Automobile Association stores throughout southern Ontario will be collecting non-perishable food donations Friday and Saturday for the London Food Bank. Donations can be made at CAA London and CAA St. Thomas. METRO

Business Cares

Food drive to kick off 2012 campaign

The Business Cares food drive team will officially launch this year's campaign Friday. Business Cares is hoping to eclipse the 256,000 pounds of food it raised last year for the London Food Bank. METRO

Barriers to immigrant health care

Fighting cancer. Federal funding will lead to improved health for minority populations: Officials

ANGELA MULLINS
angela.mullins@metronews.ca

Health-care workers and community groups are banding together to fight cancer in London's immigrant populations.

The Public Health Agency of Canada has given the South West Regional Cancer Program about $600,000 to develop a program aimed at early detection of cancer and symptoms that could lead to the disease.

A big focus will be on people arriving from communities with below-average screening rates for breast, cervical and colon cancer. The initiative will be developed in close partnership with local non-profits, representatives from the Nepalese and Iraqi populations — two emerging newcomer groups in the city — and people from Spanish- and Arabic-speaking communities. Through the approach, doctors hope to fully identify barriers people are facing to health care in general, said Adriana Diaz, who's leading the project for the South West Regional Cancer Program.

"The language barriers (are) the first thing preventing people (from getting) access," said Diaz, an immigrant herself. "We want to know (outside) these language barriers what other things that are preventing people (from getting) access. We want to know exactly what happens and create an educational model not only for those immigrants, those groups, but also an educational model for health-care providers."

Immigrants are generally healthier than their Canadian-born counterparts, but studies have shown their health declines the longer they stay in the country. Part of that is due to cultural changes, like eating different food and less physical activity.

Another issue, Diaz said, is that many immigrants don't find a family doctor right away. If they do see a doctor, they may not ask the right questions or understand what's being said.

"They don't want to feel inferior or that they are dumb because they don't understand very well what (the doctor is) saying," Diaz said.

Employment program gives young people opportunities

Eric Belanger, 22, places a Christmas cake out on display at Village Harvest Bakery in Wortley Village. Belanger and another employee started working at the bakery through the Youth Opportunities Unlimited program. Village Harvest also employs two other people through Hutton House, which promotes the inclusion of adults and youth with disabilities. MARK SPOWART/FOR METRO

Nominate London-based tech companies

Do you know a growing or innovative tech company deserving of an award?

New this year, Londoners can submit their own nominations for the annual Techcellence Awards. Nominees must be incorporated in Ontario, and operate in London.

TechAlliance, a London-based nonprofit organization supporting tech entrepreneurs, awards prizes in three categories. "First, there is the business-growth category for companies who have experienced significant growth this year," said Allison Fisher of TechAlliance. "Second, there is the innovation category for new and exciting business and tech developments.

"Finally there is the community engagement category to recognize a company's involvement with the community."

Last year's winners were Voices.com in the business-growth category, Pulse InfoFrame for innovation, and rtraction for community engagement.

This year's Techcellence winners will be announced during London tech week from Feb. 4 to Feb. 8.

ANDREW SERCOMBE/METRO

Techcellence awards

- **When.** Deadline for nominations: Dec. 14
- **How.** Nominate here: techalliance.ca

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Downhill skating tour. Event crashes into success

The current edition of the Red Bull Crashed Ice downhill skating tour is most certainly not your older brother's Crashed Ice.

The adrenaline-junkie sport has flourished since its inception in 2001. The quality of competition has risen, appeal increased, versatility heightened, and safety tightened.

"It's like a snowball you're pushing down a hill," said Chris Papillon, sports director for Crashed Ice. "If you do it properly, it'll grow in the right way."

This Thursday through Saturday, Niagara Falls hosts the first stop in a five-city tour. The circuit concludes in the sport's mecca, Quebec City, on March 16, after visits to Minnesota, Switzerland, and The Netherlands.

"From a sport perspective, you can see that it's growing, developing," Papillon said. "Year after year, every rider is getting prepared (more and more). Now, we have real athletes. Before, it was just a bunch of guys in good shape."

Those athletes come from various sporting backgrounds. There are hockey players, speed skaters, track and field runners, and plenty of extreme sports enthusiasts in attendance at the Niagara Falls event. JOHN MATISZ/METRO

An eager competitor on the ice course Thursday evening. JOHN MATISZ/METRO

Londoners in contention

- **J.P. Stollar:** 1st in Toronto regional with time of 22.080
- **Dwayne Blais:** 2nd in London regional with time of 22.140

Special needs. Ombudsman looks at services for adults

Too many families with adult children who have developmental disabilities are failing to get the services they need from the Ontario government, Ombudsman Andre Marin said Thursday as he launched a special investigation.

An ever-increasing number of desperate families complained their loved ones are at risk of ending up in a homeless shelter or jail because there is nowhere to care for them, said Marin.

Andre Marin
METRO FILE

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Athanasiou, Colts make lone trip of season to face Knights

Ex-Knight. Forward having fun playing on Barrie's first line

JOHN MATISZ
john.matisz@metronews.ca

The London Knights have a seemingly unstoppable duo strapping on the pads these days.

Overager Kevin Bailie and 18-year-old Jake Patterson are both in the top three in the Ontario Hockey League's goals-against average rankings.

Over the club's 12-game unbeaten streak, the coaching staff has been able to sub one for the other without missing a step. Each has registered two shutouts during that time.

A former teammate is happy for the Knights and their netminders — especially Patterson, who is "really coming on" — but doesn't hold back when asked about what stands out about his new squad.

"We have the best tandem of goalies, for sure," said ex-Knight Andreas Athanasiou, now a member of the Barrie Colts, "and (starting goaltender Mathias Niederberger) is one of the best goalies in the league."

Athanasiou, selected by the Detroit Red Wings in the 2012 NHL draft, was shipped north in August after demanding a trade from London. The quick-footed forward wanted a secure spot on the team's top two lines — something that couldn't be promised going into Knights training camp.

The Colts, on the other hand, who are here Friday night, have given him exactly what he wants. The Woodbridge native has 12 goals and 25 points in 26 games, putting him on pace to double his career highs.

"Even in close games, they're putting me out on the first line with (Winnipeg Jets first-rounder Mark Scheifele)," Athanasiou, 18, said. "I'm getting a good opportunity, and it's closer to home, so it's fun."

One thing Athanasiou has noticed throughout the season is that Barrie's style of play closely resembles a foe the Knights begrudgingly know well.

"When we played (the Shawinigan Cataractes in the 2012 Memorial Cup final), they were a real fast team," he said. "And I think this team is just as fast. We're really dynamic."

The Knights are nearly perfect against Eastern Conference teams this year, boasting a 7-1 record, including a 3-2 shootout victory in Barrie last month.

As it stands now, the Colts and Knights lead their respective conferences, so Friday's tango could be an OHL final preview.

"We're playing some pretty big rivalries right now," said London assistant coach Dylan Hunter. "Regardless of any streak we're on, the guys would be up for it."

Former London Knight Andreas Athanasiou, seen here walking off a plane in London following the 2012 Memorial Cup, is back in town on Friday as his Barrie Colts face the Knights. JOHN MATISZ/METRO

This weekend

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
• Budweiser Gardens, 7:30 p.m.	• Budweiser Gardens, 7 p.m.	• Hershey Centre, 2 p.m.
• Vs. Barrie Colts	• Vs. Guelph Storm	• Vs. Mississauga Steelheads
• Record: 18-7-0-1	• Record: 16-8-0-3	• Record: 17-8-0-1
• The hot hand: Mark Scheifele (20 goals, 23 assists)	• The hot hand: Tanner Richard (2 goals, 31 assists)	• The hot hand: Riley Brace (8 goals, 25 assists)

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Fashion crime takes on new meaning

Alleged modelling scam. Mississauga businessman arrested after Ottawa woman mounts YouTube campaign

JOE LOFARO
Metro in Ottawa

A Mississauga businessman accused of luring actors and models into fake TV contracts and then vanishing after charging them a fee has been arrested. An Ottawa woman's campaign to bring the matter to light may have played a part in the investigation.

Toronto Police say Saroor Hassan Zaidi, 36, turned himself in to police in Mississauga last Thursday. He faces 13 counts of fraud under $5,000 and two counts of fraud over $5,000. In an email to Metro on July 18, Zaidi denied any part in the alleged scam and any connection with Casting Toronto, one of the firms police say was involved.

The 15 victims believed to have been burned in the alleged scam reported a total loss of $43,364, police said on Thursday.

Assma Galuta of Ottawa has been raising alarm bells about the matter for months. The 22-year-old model told Metro in July that she went to an office in unit 211 at 168 Queen St. S. in Mississauga after responding to an online ad for a Cadbury commercial audition.

She was contacted by a firm called Casting Toronto and, on May 15, met a man who went by the name of Mike Hertzberg. That is one of the aliases police say was used by Zaidi.

His office looked like the real deal, Galuta said. "He had pictures up of all these random models, a camera in a room, he had music playing," she said.

After she auditioned, she was told she had the part. But she grew suspicious when he asked her to pay about $4,000 upfront for a permit from the Screen Actors Guild–American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA), which he told her was needed because the commercial shoot was in New York. SAG-AFTRA says no such permit exists.

Galuta says she did not pay and took a bus back to Ottawa.

Galuta says she contacted Toronto police and the Ministry of Consumer Services. Then, she posted a nearly seven-minute video on YouTube on June 20 warning people about the agency.

Messages started rolling in from other actresses who explained how they had paid him money and found themselves without work, Galuta claims.

The video was yanked from YouTube around July 20. According to a note on YouTube, the removal was due to a defamation complaint. YouTube did not disclose who made the complaint.

Galuta says while she is glad Zaidi is behind bars, at least until his Dec. 12 bail hearing, she feels bad for the other alleged victims. "I feel relieved because now it's like he can't go after any more girls out there or try to scam them."

Assma Galuta, 22, of Ottawa, uploaded a YouTube video to warn actresses about a man she met on an acting audition in Mississauga who was charged last week with 15 counts of fraud. JOE LOFARO/METRO

Elusive trail

Who is Mike Hertzberg?

Assma Galuta and four other women say they met either a Mike Hertz or Mike Hertzberg in Mississauga in May at Casting Toronto at unit 211 of 168 Queen St. S.

Property manager Anh Tran said in August that a man named Hassan Zaidi leased unit 211 on Sept. 15, 2011. Tran said Zaidi also went by the first name "Uzi."

The email address Zaidi used to communicate with Tran is the same one used to send an email to Metro on July 18 denying the allegations. In the email, signed "Uzi Zaidi," he identified Century Models and other businesses as his agencies.

All five women who spoke to Metro identified a photo of a man in the Facebook profile for "Uzi Zaidi" as the man they met in unit 211 who asked for their money.

JOE LOFARO/METRO IN OTTAWA

'No connections' with Casting Toronto

A Facebook photo of Uzi Zaidi, whom police allege is Saroor Hassam Zaidi. FACEBOOK

Zaidi denies allegations

Metro sent a private Facebook message to Uzi Zaidi on July 17 to request an interview, as well as an email to one of his business associates to inquire about Zaidi's experience in the fashion industry.

On July 18, Zaidi sent an email to Metro in which he denied knowing Galuta and said he has "no connections" with Casting Toronto.

"Kindly refrain from publishing any such article without any proof whatsoever, which shall lead to overruling me and my associate's sanctity and shall act as a law suit if such an article is published," Zaidi wrote in the email.

On Aug. 28, Metro reached Zaidi by calling a phone number in Pakistan via Skype.

He said, "I have no comments," when asked about the July 18 email. A subsequent question was posed in regards to his experience in the fashion industry and his agency, Century Models.

"My experience in the fashion industry has been great. I had a great time over there, but I'm no longer part of it as we speak," he said.

When asked a follow-up question, Zaidi hung up.

JOE LOFARO/METRO IN OTTAWA

Victim comes forward. Alleged modelling scam hits close to home

A London woman spoke to Metro alleging she auditioned for Mike Hertz and paid him money that was never returned to her.

Jacqueline Peter, 21
Actress
London, Ont.

- Responded to audition ad on Kijiji.
- Auditioned with Mike Hertz on May 25 for a cop role in a TV show with the working title Universe Bible."
- Said she signed a contract.
- Compensation promised: $8,200 for the job, plus $1,300 per month in royalties for one year.
- Money paid: $1,195 US in cash to get a so-called SAG-AFTRA permit. Says she was promised her money back if she didn't get the role.
- Says she lost touch with Hertz.

Comment: "Who does that? I mean, we're all just people trying to find actual work and it's just wrong that people are trying to scam actors and models out of money," Peter said in August. "We're just hungry, starving people."

JOE LOFARO/METRO IN OTTAWA

Zaidi under government's watch?

- In April 2011, the Ministry of Consumer Services laid seven charges under the Consumer Protection Act against Century Models & Talent Agency, Saroor Hassan Zaidi and two other persons.
- The Ministry alleges seven consumers who entered into contracts between August 2008 and October 2010 were misled about the products and services they would receive in exchange for upfront payments.
- "Consumers were not provided with adequate copies of contracts and never received any of the products promised and paid for, and were not provided with refunds," ministry spokesman Stephen Puddister said in an email to Metro.
- The Crown later withdrew the charges against all parties except for Saroor Hassan Zaidi. His charges — improper contract, failure to provide a refund, and unfair business practice — are currently before the court.

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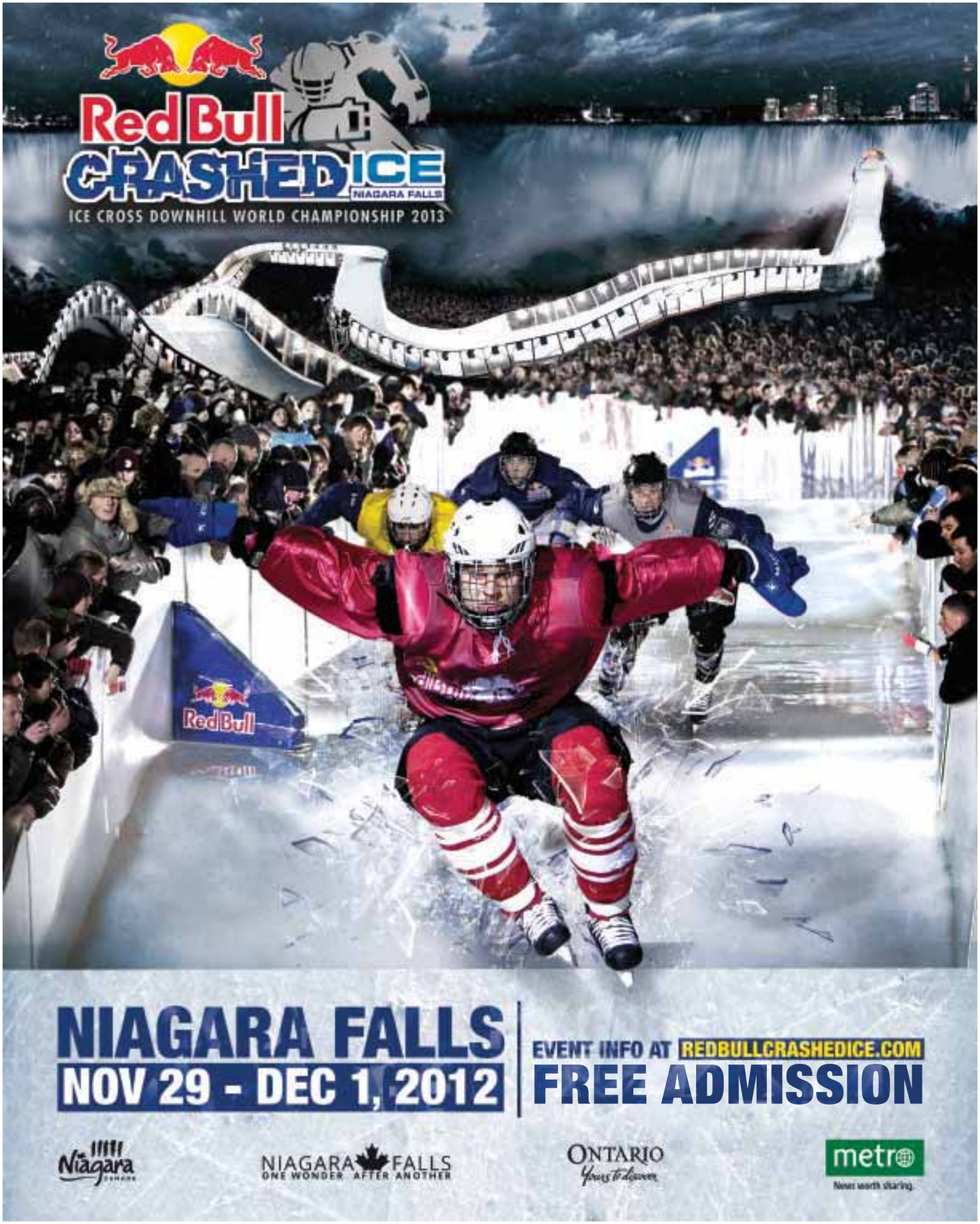
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Caught at border

Cult kids return home to Canada

Ten children, aged two through seven, who were allegedly living in Arizona with followers of a self-styled guru have been returned to Quebec and placed in youth protection. Two more returned to B.C. and another two are still missing.

Marcel Pontbriand of Beloeil, Que., led the cult, which allegedly separated kids from their parents.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Biohazard

Man jailed for syringe assaults

A Quebec man who hid dirty syringes in clothing at a shopping mall has been sentenced to four years in jail.

Claude Letourneau had pleaded guilty to 32 counts of theft, assault with a weapon causing harm and assault with a weapon.

Several shoppers were pricked by the needles and had to undergo drug treatment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Salvation Army

Second charged in $2M toy theft

A second person has been charged in connection with the theft of 100,000 toys and other items from a Salvation Army warehouse in Toronto, police said Thursday.

Umaish Ramrattan, 61, of Ajax, faces 40 charges, including several counts of theft and possession of stolen property, and is to appear in court on Jan. 4.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Espionage

Warrants for spy to be released

The federal Crown has consented to unsealing redacted versions of three search warrants used to obtain evidence against a navy officer who pleaded guilty last month to passing military secrets to Russia.

Sub-Lt. Jeffrey Paul Delisle pleaded guilty in October to passing information to a foreign entity and breach of trust for selling classified information. He will be sentenced Jan. 10.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec holds blood for fear of contamination

Concern at provincial blood supply agency. Tiny cracks in the packaging may have been the result of a manufacturing defect

A bag of blood is shown at a Montreal clinic on Thursday. Exposure to air could make a portion of the supply unusable. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec's health minister offered assurances to patients on Thursday after the agency that oversees blood supplies in the province temporarily suspended use of some of its stock.

The problem has led to the postponement of some operations throughout the province.

"There is no contamination of the blood in Quebec," Health Minister Rejean Hebert told reporters in Quebec City.

"There is a problem with some batches of blood that could be contaminated, and we have withdrawn those batches of blood to be sure there's no problem."

Hebert insisted there is no risk to patients, adding that the agency, Hema-Quebec, has the reserves necessary to fulfil the needs of hospitals.

A Montreal health services spokeswoman said some elective surgeries at five area hospitals were delayed, including heart operations at three major Montreal hospitals.

A spokesman for Hema-Quebec said there was a problem with the equipment used to keep blood. Tiny cracks were found in some packaging used to store blood stock at a Montreal holding facility.

Laurent-Paul Menard said the blood, some of which had already been distributed to hospitals, risked being exposed to air, which creates favourable conditions for bacteria.

Menard said about 70 per cent of the agency's stock might be held for examination.

Hema-Quebec suggested the leaks in the bags appeared to have been a manufacturing defect. THE CANADIAN PRESS

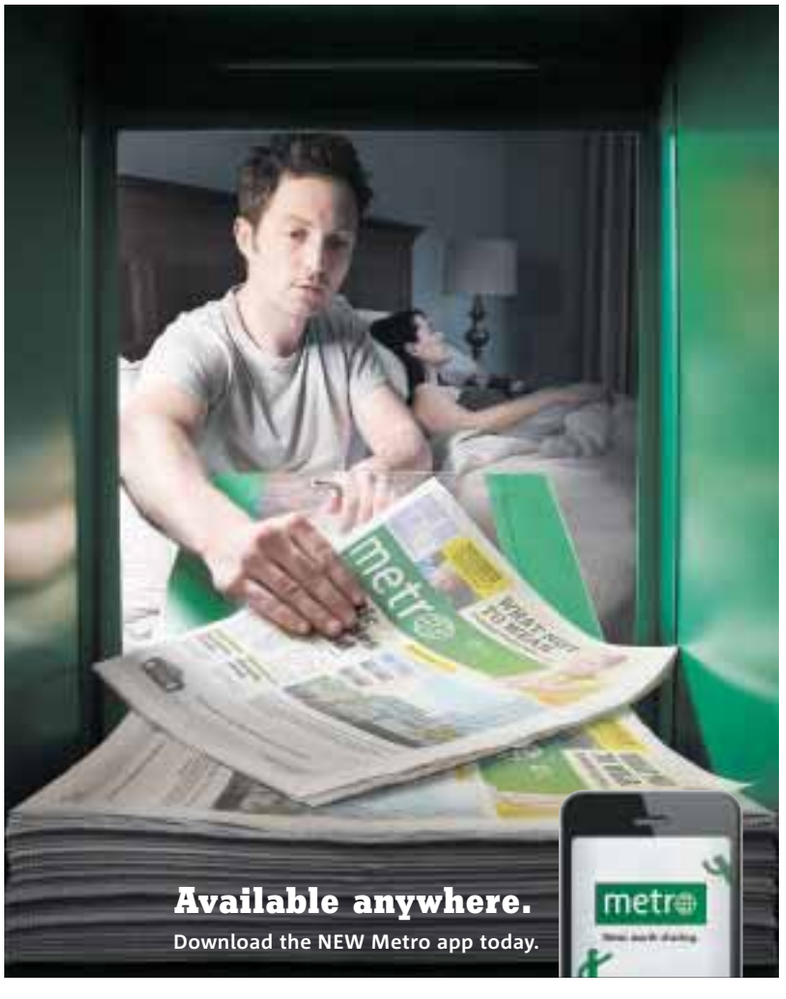
Suspended

70%

The amount of the agency's blood stock that might be held for examination due to fears of bacterial contaminants

On the web

Find more news online at metronews.ca



School of tuna brave dry ground for protest

Environmental activists depict a school of tuna during a rally outside the Japanese Embassy in suburban Pasay, south of Manila, Philippines, on Thursday. The group demands that countries joining the ninth regular session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission agree on conservation and management measures in order to address the allegedly plummeting supply of Pacific tuna. AARON FAVILA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zebra and mini horse make mad bid for freedom in U.S.

New York City can be like a zoo sometimes, but a zebra running wild through the streets is not something you ordinarily see.

The Staten Island Advance reports a zebra and a miniature horse were spotted trotting through a shopping centre parking lot Wednesday morning in Staten Island.

Metropolitan Drape & Blind owner Zachary Osher saw the runaway equines and shared his video with the newspaper.

He says the animals ran down a street and narrowly escaped being hit by a car.

He says two men in dark suits ran after them with lassoes.

A police spokesman says the animals were corralled and returned to a petting zoo. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Palestinians celebrate the UN vote in the West Bank city of Ramallah on Thursday. MAJDI MOHAMMED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Palestinians win UN statehood by a landslide

138 to 9 victory. Only Canada, U.S., Israel, the Czech Republic, Panama and four tiny island nations opposed

The United Nations voted overwhelmingly Thursday to recognize a Palestinian state, a long-sought victory for the Palestinians and an embarrassing diplomatic defeat for the United States.

The resolution upgrading the Palestinians' status to a nonmember observer state at the UN was approved by a vote of 138-9, with 41 abstentions.

A Palestinian flag was quickly unfurled on the floor of the General Assembly, behind the Palestinian delegation. In the West Bank city of Ramallah, hundreds crowded into the main square, waved flags and chanted "God is great."

Real independence, however, remains elusive until the Palestinians negotiate a peace deal with the Israelis, who warned that the UN action will only delay a lasting solution.

Israel still controls the West Bank, east Jerusalem and access to Gaza and it accused the Palestinians of bypassing negotiations with the campaign.

The Palestinians still face enormous limitations. They don't control their borders, airspace or trade, they have separate and competing governments in Gaza and the West Bank and they have no unified army or police.

The United States immediately criticized the vote. "Today's unfortunate and counterproductive resolution places further obstacles in the path to peace," UN Ambassador Susan Rice said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the speech by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas before the vote "defamatory and venomous," saying it was "full of mendacious propaganda."

Netanyahu said the UN move violated past agreements between Israel and the Palestinians and that Israel would act accordingly, without elaborating what steps it might take.

The Palestinians now can gain access to UN agencies and international bodies, most significantly the International Criminal Court, which could become a springboard for going after Israel for alleged war crimes or its ongoing settlement building on war-won land.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel's take

"The Palestinians are turning their backs on peace."
Ron Prosor, Israel's UN ambassador

Domestic take

Canada considers retaliation

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird used the podium at the United Nations General Assembly to denounce the world body Thursday for its "utterly regrettable decision" to allow a vote on Palestinian statehood.

Baird also suggested Canada will take retaliatory measures against the Palestinians for forcing the issue onto the world stage. He didn't say what, but the obvious option would be suspending aid.

Baird said Canada was voting against the initiative because "we are firmly convinced (it) will undermine the objective of reaching a comprehensive, lasting and just settlement for both sides."

"This resolution will not advance the cause of peace.... Will the Palestinian people be better off as a result? No. On the contrary, this unilateral step will harden positions and raise unrealistic expectations." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Sticking to a healthy eating plan during the holiday season can be difficult. On days that you find it tough to follow a healthy diet – or on designated cheat days – you can at least stop some of the excess carbohydrate (starch) and fat calories from adding to your expanding fat cell accounts by supplementing with scientifically proven starch and fat blocking nutrients. Even Dr. Oz is talking about the benefits of white kidney bean for those days when you cannot follow a healthy eating regimen.

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XL Foods

Same rules apply to meat for export, domestic markets: Inspection agency

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency says the same safety standards apply to meat for domestic consumption and for overseas exports, and reports to the contrary are "categorically false." The agency is reacting to a media report that inspectors at the XL Foods processing plant in Brooks, Alta., were told to ignore contamination on cattle carcasses unless they were destined for Japan.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
100.73¢ (-0.09¢)

TSX
12,202.85 (+62.52)

OIL
$88.07 US (+$1.58)

GOLD
$1,729.50 US (+$10.70)

Natural gas: $3.65 US (-15¢)
Dow Jones: 13,021.82 (+36.71)

Hostess Brands. Court approves Twinkie maker's bankruptcy — including executive bonuses

Hostess Brands Inc. got final approval for its wind-down plans in bankruptcy court Thursday, setting the stage for its iconic snack cakes to find a second life with new owners — even as 18,000 jobs will be wiped out.

The company said in court that it's in talks with 110 potential buyers for its brands, which include CupCakes, Ding Dongs and Ho Hos. The suitors include at least five national retailers such as supermarkets, a financial adviser for Hostess said.

The process has been "so fast and furious" Hostess wasn't able to make its planned calls to potential buyers, said Joshua Scherer of Perella Weinberg Partners. "Not only are these buyers serious, but they are expecting to spend substantial sums," he said, noting that six of them had hired investment banks to help in the process.

The update on the sale process came as Hostess also received approval to give its top executives bonuses totalling up to $1.8 million US for meeting certain budget goals to bring down costs during the liquidation. The company says the incentive pay is needed to retain the 19 corporate officers and "high-level managers" during the wind down process, which could take about a year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hostess Brands' Wonder Bread JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

In a 2,000-page report on the ethics of the British media released Thursday, Lord Justice Brian Leveson said the press should be regulated by a new body with much stronger powers than the current Press Complaints Commission. GETTY IMAGES FILE

New regulator needed to corral press: U.K. judge

Media ethics inquiry. PM objects to report's key recommendation, citing free-speech infringement concerns

Britain's unruly newspapers should be regulated by an independent body dominated by non-journalists with the power to levy steep fines for ethical lapses, a judge recommended Thursday after a year-long inquiry.

But Prime Minister David Cameron immediately expressed deep misgivings about a key recommendation in the report — that the new regulator be enshrined in law.

"I'm proud of the fact that we've managed to survive hundreds of years without state regulation," Cameron said.

The impasse left questions about the eventual impact of Lord Justice Brian Leveson's sweeping probe of media ethics in Britain. The inquiry was triggered by a tabloid phone hacking scandal that expanded to engulf senior figures in politics, the police and Rupert Murdoch's media empire.

Leveson said a law should be established to prevent more people being hurt by "outrageous" press behaviour that had "wreaked havoc with the lives of innocent people whose rights and liberties have been disdained."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Task Force

Biz must cough up 'dead cash': Report

A new report says Ontario businesses need to start spending the "dead cash" languishing in coffers if the province wants to prevent "slow or stagnant" economic growth.

The Task Force on Competitiveness, Productivity and Economic Progress says Ontario's economy can no longer afford for companies to hold onto "larger cash balances" instead of investing the money to trigger more productivity.

"Companies need to step up their efforts to grow the economy, and counterbalance risk by producing higher returns," urged the 74-page report released on Thursday, titled A Push for Growth: The Time is Now.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The report states...

"Given the higher level of cash balances, this is the time ... for companies to innovate and invest."

Turkish delight. Air Canada to launch direct flights to Istanbul

Air Canada is introducing direct service next summer to Istanbul, Turkey and will use two new Boeing 777 aircraft to expand its reach into the lucrative Asia-Pacific market.

Year-round service to Istanbul three times a week from Toronto will begin June 4 and serve as a gateway to Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa with alliance partner Turkish Airlines.

"Istanbul and Turkey is growing incredibly fast. The traffic that we have been carrying to date via our European partners we feel warrants now a non-stop service,'' chief commercial officer Ben Smith said in an interview.

Air Canada will also add a fifth destination in Asia from Toronto by launching non-stop, three-times-a-week service to Seoul. The flights will complement existing service from Vancouver and provide daily departures from Canada to the South Korean capital.

Three more weekly departures between Toronto and Beijing will begin June 1, bringing the total to 10 a week. Vancouver will offer 11 weekly departures with the addition of four additional flights, including a new late night flight.

"Obviously we're going to deploy our aircraft with the most profitable opportunities that are out there and we feel that's what we're seeing in Asia." THE CANADIAN PRESS

This could be you: A couple looks over the Bosphorus in Istanbul.
DAN KITWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

Enbridge fire 'preventable,' watchdog says

Ontario. National Energy Board's report on 2009 incident comes as company seeks approval for $6B Northern Gateway project

The National Energy Board says poor oversight and communication were to blame for an Enbridge natural gas pipeline fire west of Toronto more than three years ago.

In September 2009, a contractor was working on the line in Mississauga, Ont., and damaged part of it, causing gas to escape and ignite. A flame shot up 50 metres into the air.

"Examination of the evidence, documents gathered, and interviews conducted indicate that the incident was preceded by a number of contributing conditions and unsafe acts," the NEB said in a report released this week.

No one was hurt in the fire and the environmental impact was limited, but a building, vehicles and construction equipment were damaged. Nearby businesses, including a strip mall and daycare, were evacuated as a precaution.

In the report, the federal energy watchdog says the incident was "preventable."

"Though no people were injured and the incident resulted in minimal impacts to public safety, the environment or the economy, the potential impact of an event of this magnitude cannot be ignored," it said.

Enbridge spokeswoman Chris Meyer said the company is reviewing the NEB's findings.

"Safety is our priority and after the incident we reviewed what happened and we've implemented changes to help prevent a similar situation from occurring again," she said.

The NEB says Enbridge's gas distribution unit did not have a copy of its safety manual on site and didn't adequately communicate hazards to contracted workers or make sure they were following proper procedures.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Consequences

- Both Enbridge and the contractor have pleaded guilty to violations under the Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act.
- The Ontario Court of Justice has sentenced each to a $50,000 fine.

What's their beef? Low wages, no union

Protesters demonstrate outside of a Wendy's to demand higher pay and the right to form a union on Thursday in New York City. The campaign, called Fast Food Forward, organized protests at other New York fast-food establishments. The group seeks to double hourly pay to $15 US an hour. SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

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GOT MILKED? 'UDDERLY' AMAZING VIDEO GOES VIRAL

THE LIST
Neil Morton
metronews.ca

1 **Leafs worth $1 billion.** The Toronto Maple Leafs franchise is now worth a whopping $1 billion, according to Forbes, making them the first team in the NHL to hit that figure. It's like the longer the Leafs go playing mediocre hockey and not making the playoffs, the more the brand is worth! Enough already.

2 **TipMine.** From how to take a perfect basketball shot, to dealing with arthritis, to tricks to beating nail-biting, a new Canadian website called TipMine has advice on just about everything. And you can even submit your own text or video tips to share with others. So stop biting your nails and check it out.

3 **#Babynames.** A couple named their newborn Like after Facebook last year, and this week it was revealed a couple who are obviously big Twitter fans apparently named their baby girl Hashtag — full name Hashtag Jameson. Just you wait: Someone in 2013 will name their baby Pinning after Pinterest.

4 **The smile epidemic.** A social-innovation project based out of Waterloo focuses on making people and organizations happy. The Smile Epidemic (@Smile__Epidemic on Twitter) suggests that doing simple things that make you smile for 30 days can change the way you look at the world. Go to TheSmileEpidemic.com to find out how to participate. And give a smile today.

5 **Coldplay.** Many fans got a rush of blood to the head when the band announced it's taking a long break from touring. "This is the last big show for three years or so," the band's leader Chris Martin said at a recent show. Maybe Martin wants to spend more time with wife Gwyneth Paltrow having date nights in, listening to Coldplay songs like The Scientist.

6 **150 Shades Of Play.** Sexperts Em and Lo are releasing a new book, 150 Shades of Play: A Beginner's Guide to Kink, an A-to-Z manual that serves as kind of a companion piece to the Fifty Shades of Grey trilogy — but with real advice and quality writing. It's already working: I am cuffed to a bed wearing a kinky costume talking dirty as I dictate this to my wife.

7 **Chris Brown.** Imagine a Twitterverse free of Chris Brown? Well, that's the Christmas gift the R&B singer with massive anger issues gave us by deleting his account after sending misogynistic, violent tweets at comedian Jenny Johnson in response to much tamer tweets Johnson directed his way. Fingers crossed he never reactivates it.

8 **Milking.** The new planking is milking, which involves pouring containers of milk over your head in a public place. It originated with dudes in Newcastle, England. I think I did this as a submission move during a food fight in my high-school cafeteria in Peterborough in 1988. So these Newcastle dudes totally ripped me off. They just weren't born yet to know it. The video now has almost half a million views. Watch the hilarity at metronews.ca.

9 **Jenna Marbles.** If you haven't heard of entertainer/comedian Jenna Mourey, a.k.a. Jenna Marbles, you must check out her YouTube channel, which has nearly five million subscribers. With her (profanity-laced) social-commentary vids like Things I Don't Understand About Girls, and Apps Are Ruining My Life, she is hysterical fun.

10 **Google's Mr. Dressup.** Google Canada celebrated the 85th birthday of the late Ernie "Mr. Dressup" Coombs on Monday by placing a doodle of him on google.ca, with puppets Casey and Finnegan. Mr. Dressup was an iconic Canadian children's show that ran from 1967 to 1996. If you want to know more about Ernie Coombs and his place in pop culture, google him.

11 **Lindsay Lohan.** The train wreck that is Lindsay Lohan had another normal week in the life that is Lindsay Lohan: She got arrested. Yes, late Wednesday night, she was arrested for allegedly punching a woman at an NYC nightclub. This girl needs the world's largest intervention ever.

Tiny egg no small potatoes

OWEN HUMPHREYS/PA

Record-breaking egg

Man thinks he has smallest hen egg

A bed-and-breakfast owner who believes he has found the world's smallest hen's egg confessed he took it in his pocket to show his pals at the pub.

Paul Rae found the dime-sized egg on Sunday alongside three normal ones in his henhouse at the business he runs with his wife, Margaret, in Humshaugh, Northumberland, northeast England.

METRO

Owner's viewpoint

"After I found it I had a quick look online, then I took it to the pub. My friends said I should get in touch with the Guinness Book of Records."

Paul Rae, 52, owner of the Walwick Farm House bed and breakfast

Rae admitted he keeps his prized find more safely now. "I don't carry it in my pocket now; it's wrapped in cotton wool," he said.

Other contender

Rival egg hopes to break record first

Rae's discovery comes at the same time Harry Evans found an egg that he claimed was barely larger than a dime at his farm near the market town of Bakewell, Derbyshire, central England.

"(Evans') weighed 7.3 grams but mine was just five grams," Rae said. "It's certainly not longer than 2.5 centimetres, which his was — it's less than that in length."

METRO

Egg-laying business

Hen that laid egg remains a mystery

Now Rae is hoping to beat Evans to the record books.

"There is no category for the world's smallest chicken egg as far as I know, so I am going to try and get it recorded," Rae said.

Yet sadly he doesn't know which of his four Lohmann Brown hens, named after his wife as Margaret's Girls, spawned the now-famous egg.

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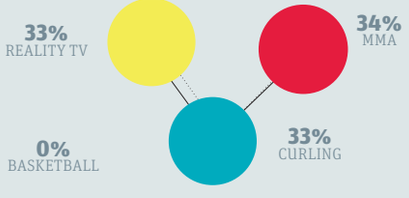
Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

With the hockey lockout, what are you watching a lot more of?



Twitter

@ArkAidMission: Local businessman just delivered our first Christmas turkey. Lots more to come, we hope - turkey dinner every month! #ldnont

@Mhouser29: Thanks to @FlaPanthers training staff for rehabbing me through my injury. Finally getting my pro career started tomorrow!

@Hol_Fit: Excited to shop at Costco with all of #ldnont. Not.

@seehanth001: Accident just south of Wharncliffe and Horton. Truck smashed right into a utility pole. #ldnont

@hankjanssens: Exams all next week. Studying all day everyday for the next while #crunchtime #fanshawe

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Keira Knightley wears imperialist Russian style well in Anna Karenina. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

To Russia, with love

Anna Karenina. Luxe setting, costumes and Keira Knightley's cheekbones make for a screenplay that felt a bit too staged

Richard: Mark, the story itself is rather simple and has been told many times, so what distinguishes this version, aside from the cast (more on that later), is the sumptuous staging. Every frame of the film drips with beauty, from the sets to the clothes to Knightley's cheekbones. But that's to be expected from a big retelling of the story. What really captures my eye — and mind — is the unconventional way director Joe Wright has chosen to tell the tale. What did you think of the mix of reality and fantasy?

Mark: I think Joe Wright, to his credit, wanted to take the stiffness out of a classic. Setting the movie in a theatre is an unusual move, which makes it feel intimate but also a bit claustrophobic and gimmicky. Perhaps he was trying to say that people in pre-revolutionary Russia were forced to play their social roles and this is the undoing of Karenina. The theatre setting allows for some breathtaking transitions but sometimes left me scratching my head.

RC: It's a risky bit of staging to be sure, but I imagined I was watching an Anna Karenina opera, with all the implied drama and grandeur, but none of the music. I think it's a brilliant piece of staging for a story that has enough passion and tragedy for two operas. What did you think of Knightley? She has a face meant to be framed by fur hats and veils, but apart from looking the part, she carefully modulates Anna's descent from socialite to outcast with grace and dignity while allowing notes of frustration and misery to seep through.

MB: Your comment about music is interesting to me because at times I thought the actors were just about to break into song! I thought Knightley, who has to carry the movie, has the evanescent presence of a great silent movie actress. It was Vronsky (Aaron Taylor-Johnson) that felt miscast. He should be fatally dashing, but he just seems callow and expressionless. He's just not seductive enough to make me believe Anna would throw her life away for him. Jude Law, on the other hand, is perfect as the wronged husband. And it took a lot of guts for him to sport that hairline.

RC: You got that right. He does leave his matinee idol days behind with that haircut. I also liked Matthew Macfadyen, whose élan and rakish charm turns the womanizing Oblonsky into one of the film's high spots.

MB: There's great wit from a screenplay by Tom Stoppard and a sumptuous production design, but in the end — wow! — can Keira Knightley rock a hoop skirt.

Synopsis

Russian writer Leo Tolstoy's classic story set in imperialist Russia begins with a family in tatters because of marital transgression. St. Petersburg aristocrat and socialite Anna Karenina (Keira Knightley) travels to Moscow to visit her womanizing brother Oblonsky (Matthew Macfadyen) and his long-suffering wife Dolly (Kelly Macdonald). Her counsel saves their marriage, but the trip proves to be the undoing of hers.

- Richard: ●●●●○
- Mark: ●●●○○

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Gerard Butler talks Playing For Keeps and men in the throes of midlife crisis

Rom com. Actor can relate to film's character — a former soccer star who causes chaos around him

ANNE BRODIE
scene@metronews.ca

In Playing For Keeps, Gerard Butler is an ex-soccer star trying to get his life back together in small town America. HANDOUT

Gerard Butler produced and stars in Playing for Keeps, a romantic comedy about an ex-international soccer star who returns to small-town America, where his son and estranged wife live.

As George discovers and Butler knows, being famous can create problems.

"You get that as an actor in my position," says Butler.

"You can cause a bit of chaos even with the best intentions wherever you go. (My character) George is chaotic on the inside and he causes chaos wherever he goes, but he's trying his best to take the right path. That right path is often blocked by those who would like to get their claws into him because he's an appealing character and yet in himself he doesn't feel that at all. That's what's interesting about him," he says.

Catherine Zeta-Jones and Uma Thurman don't work often. How did you lure them back?

I was kind of surprised myself. They were fun roles for them to get into, they are juicy comedic crazy roles and yet they speak to you in a way that's relatable. People get those characters, where they're coming from.... That's what I loved about this movie.

What wisdom do you have for men in a midlife crisis?

For a man, it's about growing up.

You want to keep the child in you, but at the same time you've got those quick fixes and learn about commitment and sacrificing something and ultimately going beyond distraction and love (to) family (and) career. ... But that's tough because in this life we live there are so many temptations and distractions and you can't deny it, they're fun and exciting. I'm thinking, 'Yes, that's it.'

I'm finally growing up and then for a long period of time I'm thinking I have no purpose, no real maturity, and I'm not handling my responsibilities very well.

As one of the Sexiest Man Alive (2004) any words for Channing Tatum?

That was a long time ago! Just be yourself and you're judged on that. If you have to try, it's pretty sad. I'm sure Tatum didn't have to try.

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Thriller

Killing Them Softly

Director. Andrew Dominik

Stars. Brad Pitt, James Gandolfini

Brad Pitt stalks around New Orleans as a hitman in Andrew Dominik's thriller, which drains the juice out of its underworld scenario by reminding us at every turn that it's actually an allegory about the American economy. The film is twisty and violent but also insufferably pretentious; it acts as if it's the first movie to equate crime and corporate thinking, when it's actually just the latest in a long line.

ADAM NAYMAN

Drama

Rebelle

Director. Kim Nguyen

Stars. Rachel Mwanza, Serge Kanyinda

A harrowing tale about a young African (astonishingly played by newcomer Rachel Mwanza) who is forced to become a gun-toting child soldier, Rebelle is a provocative examination of the horrors of war from Canadian filmmaker Kim Nguyen. It may not be an easy film to sit through but its evocative impact on audiences resounds long after the credits roll — whether you want it to or not.

STEVE GOW

Filmmaker learns the hard way to Beware of Mr. Baker

Documentary. Jay Bulger delves into the personal life of Cream's explosive drummer Ginger Baker, and ends up with a broken nose

PAT HEALY
Metro World News in Boston

Jay Bulger deliberated about how much of a part he should play in Beware of Mr. Baker. The writer and director's debut documentary focuses on the impulsive and explosive life of drummer Ginger Baker, who is best known as the thunderous beat behind Cream, the 1960s band that defined the term "supergroup." It might at first seem superfluous to include the personal story of the filmmaker, especially because Baker is such a one-of-a-kind character whose history is dense with so much unabashed sex, drugs, rock 'n' roll and violence. But some of those forces inevitably leaked into Bulger's own life while making the film.

"I was like, 'God, I'm there so much and you hear my voice, I should probably show who I am,'" says the filmmaker. "And then when he broke my nose with a cane, I thought that was such an indicative moment of who he is and how he deals with people."

The assault begins and ends the doc, but between these personal bookends, Baker tells of a troubled childhood and how he escaped through an enchantment with rhythm and, soon after, heroin. Both are constants during his meteoric rise to fame and many falls from such dizzying heights.

Lounging in a leather chair in his South African home, Baker often berates Bulger. "It's like boxing," says Bulger. "Sometimes you've got to take a couple punches before you can get inside."

And he does get inside. The drummer opens up about the bridges he has burned between family and friends. Then Bulger interviews those same people, including bandmates Eric Clapton, Jack Bruce and Steve Winwood. That Bulger would do this is why Baker hits him.

"I loved the challenge of doing a movie about somebody who is so potentially unlikable," says the filmmaker. "As much as you want to hate him, you've got to love him because he still keeps going," says Bulger, "and he never compromises."

Quoted

"Sometimes you've got to take a couple punches before you can get inside"

Jay Bulger on putting up with Ginger Baker's abuse during filming

Cream drummer Ginger Baker is the subject of a new doc. GETTY IMAGES

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JUMPSTART HAS GIVEN OVER 500,

JUMPSTART INVESTS $12 MILLION ACROSS CANADA

Canadian Tire Jumpstart has reached a monumental milestone: The national charity has helped more than 500,000 children across Canada between the ages of four and 18 take part in organized sports and recreation since its inception in 2005.

"This is a celebratory and significant milestone," says Bal Gosal, Canada's minister of sport. "Physical activity and access to sports for our kids is key to a healthier, stronger country. Canadian Tire Jumpstart is making a real difference in the lives of many young Canadians."

Thanks to generous donations as well as support from the Canadian Tire Corporation, dealers as well as vendors, Jumpstart has helped half a million kids participate in 78 different activities, from swimming and hockey to football and dance. By the end of 2012, Jumpstart will distribute $12 million back into Canadian communities to help kids who otherwise could not participate in having a sporting chance.

Jumpstart is unique in its ability to work in every community across Canada with 315 local chapters created and managed by volunteers and caring Canadian citizens. These chapters work closely with more than 2,400 community partners to identify families with financial needs whose children would benefit from participating in the programs. It is a perfect formula for a national charity to help at the local level.

So how can ordinary Canadians help the one in three families that can't afford to pay the fees for organized sport and recreation programs? There are many ways to get involved. One hundred per cent of donations made at any Canadian Tire, Canadian Tire Petroleum or Mark's locations remain directly in your community. Or, one way this holiday season is to go online and donate to the Jumpstart Symbolic Giving Program; there's no better gift to give than the chance for a child to enrol in a season of sport and recreation.

Last Christmas, instead of exchanging gifts with her Canadian Women's Hockey League Toronto Furies' teammates, goaltender Sami Jo Small and the other players pitched in to buy a $200 Canadian Tire Jumpstart hockey registration for a Canadian child who wanted to play the sport they love but wasn't financially able.

"We plan to do it again this year," says Small, the three-time Olympic women's hockey team champion who is also a Canadian Tire Jumpstart ambassador. "You don't have to spend a lot to make a big difference in a child's life."

The momentum behind Jumpstart is awe-inspiring. "Our vision is more than getting children involved in sports and recreation — it's to have a country where all kids have a chance to fulfill their dreams," says Johnny Misley, the president of Canadian Tire Jumpstart.

Jumpstart™

GIVE THE GIFT OF SPORT

1 in 3 families can't afford to enrol their kids in orga
This holiday, you can help chan
Jumpstart.canadiantire

Jumpstart

JUMPSTART HELPS CANADIAN KIDS' DREAMS COME TRUE

The winter already seems shorter — next summer, Canadian Tire Jumpstart will be funding the YMCA London Lightning Basketball Camp for London-area kids between the ages of seven and 16.

A week-long pilot project camp was held this past summer, during which 100 boys and girls were coached on basketball basics by players with the National Basketball League (NBL) of Canada's London Lightning.

"It was really exciting for the kids to learn from NBL players," says Christina Harley, the senior development officer at the YMCA of Western Ontario, which is partnering with Jumpstart for the 2013 camp. When the camp ended, each child received their own basketball and backpack. The aim for next year is to expand the program to include three one-week camps, divided into two age groups (seven to 12 and 13 to 16), so more kids can participate.

This isn't the first initiative the national charity has supported for the YMCA of Western Ontario. "Among other programs, Canadian Tire Jumpstart has donated equipment for yoga, orienteering and circus kits to elementary students in the YMCA community in St. Thomas," says Harley.

"This program is just one of the many examples of the impact that the Canadian Tire Jumpstart program has on our communities. Jumpstart has helped 5,061 kids from the London community since 2005 and that's just the beginning." states London Canadian Tire dealer, Darren Gunn.

For more information about the basketball camp and other YMCA of Western Ontario programs, call (519) 667-3300 or visit ymcawo.ca.

One way to give this holiday is through Jumpstart's Symbolic Giving Program, which allows you to give the gift of a season of sport to a child in need. From hockey lessons for $200 to swimming lessons for $75, find the perfect holiday gift.

For more information on Jumpstart or on how to donate or apply, please visit Jumpstart.canadiantire.ca or call 1-877-616-6600.

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*Approximate figures for 2012 YTD.

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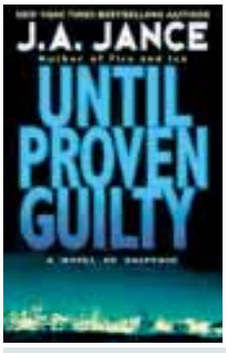
The crime novels that deserve a read-through by Hollywood

From bestseller to blockbuster? In light of Jack Reacher's screen debut, here are a few other books that might make great films

STEVE GOW
scene@metronews.ca

With Tom Cruise hitting theatres as the beloved book series-turned blockbuster Jack Reacher in December, it'll mark the first time Lee Child's popular ex-military cop of 16 novels has seen himself adapted for the big-screen. While fans will surely get their fix, we wondered what other longtime crime-novel characters Hollywood has yet to mine for movie magic. Here are few fictional characters that haven't yet made it to the big screen.

Tom Cruise stars in Jack Reacher, which hits theatres Dec. 21. HANDOUT



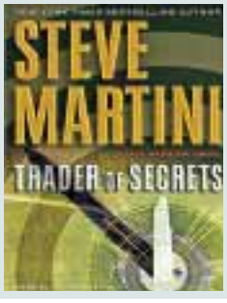
UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY

Character: Homicide Detective J.P. Beaumont

Author: J.A. Jance

Why it works: Based on Jance's first husband, Beaumont is an alcoholic, divorced father of two who lives off junk food and whiskey. According to her website, her characters are "people first and police officers second," a Hollywood sound bite if ever there was one.

Wealth of material: Twenty one novels starting with 1985's Until Proven Guilty.



TRADER OF SECRETS

Character: Defense Attorney Paul Madriani

Author: Steve Martini

Why it works: With two previous TV mini-series behind it (including 2001's The Judge starring Chris Noth), Martini's brilliant character seems ripe for the big screen. Plus, his irascible sidekick Harry Hinds is Madriani's antithesis of what Watson is to Sherlock Holmes.

Wealth of material: Twelve bestsellers, including last year's Trader of Secrets.

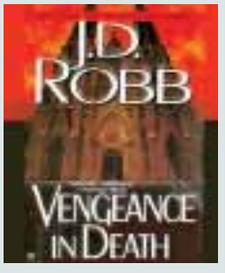
IN DEATH SERIES

Character: Lieutenant Eve Dallas

Author: J.D. Robb a.k.a Nora Roberts

Why it works: Set in a dystopian future, Eve Dallas is a cop that has no memory of her past before being found in an alley at age eight. Known more for her romance novels, Roberts combines crime and passion in a genre that could benefit from a more feminine touch.

Wealth of material: Roberts is nothing if not prolific. With more than 30 books in the In Death series alone, Tinseltown should really take notice.



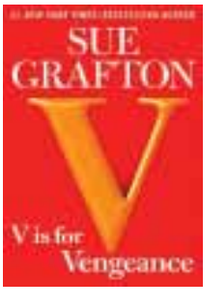
V IS FOR VENGEANCE

Character: Kinsey Millhone

Author: Sue Grafton

Why it works: Orphaned at age five, Millhone is a former tough-as-nails cop that struck out on her own. Based on Grafton herself, the character is blue-collar, rebellious and very popular in the Alphabet book series.

Wealth of material: Plenty. But even though 22 novels (including her latest, V is For Vengeance) exist, Grafton claims that she'll never sell out to Hollywood.



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Sundance. Festival books record slate of female filmmakers in main contest

The Sundance Film Festival has an apparent record lineup of female directors competing for its top honour this January.

Half the entries — eight of the 16 films — announced Wednesday in the festival's U.S. dramatic competition were directed by women for the next installment of Robert Redford's independent-cinema showcase, which runs Jan. 17 to 27 in Park City, Utah.

Going back to 1992, the best showing previously for female filmmakers was in 2000, when six of the 16 U.S. dramatic contenders were directed by women.

Sundance organizers were still trolling back to the early years of the festival's 33-year history, but this January's eight competition films appears to be most ever from women and the first time the entries have been evenly split between female and male directors.

Among the competition films from female filmmakers are Francesca Gregorini's Emanuel and the Truth About Fishes, whose cast includes Jessica Biel and Frances O'Connor in the story of a troubled girl fixated on a mysterious neighbour; Lynn Shelton's Touchy Feely, featuring Rosemarie DeWitt, Allison Janney and Ellen Page in a tale of a massage therapist who develops a distaste for bodily contact; and Liz W. Garcia's The Lifeguard, with Kristen Bell as a reporter who moves home to Connecticut and takes a job as a lifeguard.

The festival's U.S. dramatic lineup also features the first Sundance entry for Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe, who stars as Allen Ginsberg in director John Krokidas' Kill Your Darlings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., NOV. 30 TO THURS., DEC. 6. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

London

Hyland Cinema
240 Wharncliffe Road South, 519-913-0313

Argo (14A) Fri 2:50 Sat 9 Sun 4:45 Mon 6:45 Tue 1 Wed 6:45 Thu 9
Rebelle (PG) Fri 7 Sat 1 Sun-Mon 3 Tue 9 Wed 3 Thu 1
The Sessions (14A) Fri 1-5 Sat 3-5-7 Sun 1-7-9 Mon 1-4:45-9 Tue 3:10-5-7 Wed 1-4:45-9 Thu 3-5-7

Rainbow Cinemas London
355 Wellington St., 519-434-3073

Life of Pi (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:40-7:10-9:50
Lincoln (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:50-9:45
Red Dawn (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3-6:50-9
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:35-7:15-9:25
Skyfall (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:55-6:55-9:45
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:45-7:05-9:35
Wreck-It Ralph (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:30-7-9:30

Western Film
Room 340, UCC Building,

Argo (14A) Fri-Thu 9
Hotel Transylvania (PG) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 2:15-4:30-7 Mon-Thu 7

Wellington 8 Cinemas
983 Wellington Rd. S, 519-685-2529

Flight (18A) Fri 6:30-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:25-6:30-9:35 Mon-Thu 5:10-8:20
Killing Them Softly (18A) Fri 7:15-9:45 Sat-Sun 1-3:50-7:15-9:45 Mon-Thu 5:45-8:30
Life of Pi (PG) Sat-Sun 12:40
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri 7-9:55 Sat-Sun 3:40-7-9:55 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:25
Red Dawn (PG) Fri 7:20-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:10-7:20-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:25-8:35
Rise of the Guardians (G) Sat-Sun 1:10
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri 6:50-9:20 Sat-Sun 3:45-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:10
Skyfall (PG) Fri 6:45-10 Sat-Sun 12:15-3:30-6:45-10 Mon-Thu 5-8:15
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG) Fri 6:40-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:15-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:15-8
Wreck-It Ralph (PG) Sat-Sun 12:50
Wreck-It Ralph 3D (PG) Fri 7:10-9:50 Sat-Sun 4-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:20-7:50

Cineplex Odeon Westmount & VIP Cinemas
755 Wonderland Road South, 519-474-2796

Anna Karenina (14A) Fri 3:30-6:40-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:15-3:30-6:40-9:45 Mon 6:40-9:45 Tue 3:30-6:40-9:45 Wed-Thu 6:40-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri 4-7:10-10:10 Sat 12:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Sun 1-4-7:10-10:10 Mon 6:50-9:50 Tue 4-7:10-10:10 Wed-Thu 6:50-9:50 Fri 4:30-7:30-10:30 Sat 1:15-4:05-7-10:05 Sun 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:20 Mon 7:25-10:15 Tue 4:30-7:30-10:20 Wed-Thu 7:25-10:15
The Metropolitan Opera: La Clemenza Di Tito Live (STC) Sat 12:55 Sat 12:55
The Metropolitan Opera: Otello Encore (STC) Mon 6:30
Rise of the Guardians (G) Sat-Sun 11:50 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri 4:55-7:30-10:05 Sat 2:20-4:55-7:35-10:10 Sun 2:20-4:55-7:30-10:05 Mon 7:10-9:45 Tue 4:55-7:30-10:05 Wed-Thu 7:10-9:45
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri 4:20-7:20-10:20 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20 Mon 7:25-10:20 Tue 4:20-7:20-10:20 Wed 1:20-7:25-10:20 Thu 7:25-10:20
Skyfall (PG) Fri 3:35-7-10:25 Sat 1:30-3:35-7-10:15 Sun 12:20-3:35-7-10:15 Mon 6:55-10:10 Tue 3:40-7-10:20 Wed 1:15-6:55-10:10 Thu 6:55-10:10 Fri 3:20-6:30-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:15-3:20-6:30-9:40 Mon 6:30-9:40 Tue 3:20-6:30-9:40 Wed-Thu 6:30-9:40
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG) Fri 3:50-4:45-6:50-7:45-9:50-10:35 Sat 12:50-3:50-5-6:50-8-9:50-10:45 Sun 11:45-12:50-2:25-3:50-5:10-6:50-8-9:50-10:40 Mon 6:45-9:40-10:25 Tue 4:45-6:50-7:45-9:50-10:35 Wed 1:30-6:45-7:30-9:40-10:20 Thu 6:45-7:30-9:40-10:20 Fri 4-7-10:10 Sat 4:40-7:30-10:30 Sun 1-4-7-10 Mon 7-10 Tue 4-7-10:05 Wed-Thu 7-10
Wreck-It Ralph (PG) Sat-Sun 12
Wreck-It Ralph 3D (PG) Fri 5-7:40-10:30 Sat-Sun 2:30-5:05-7:45-10:30 Mon 7:20-10 Tue 4:50-7:30-10:05 Wed 1:25-7:20-10 Thu 7:20-10

SilverCity London
1680 Richmond St, 519-673-4125

Flight (18A) Fri-Sat 1:20-4:20-7:35-10:30 Sun-Thu 12:50-3:55-7:10-10:20
Home Alone (PG) Sat 11
Jesus Christ Superstar UK Spectacular (STC) Sun 12:55 Wed 7
Killing Them Softly (18A) Fri-Sat 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:45 Sun-Mon 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Tue 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:40 Wed-Thu 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30
Life of Pi 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 1:30-4:25-7:25-10:40 Sun-Thu 1-4:05-7-9:50
Lincoln (PG) Fri-Sat 12:30-3:50-7:10-10:40 Sun-Mon 12:35-3:50-6:55-10:05 Tue 12:35-3:50-6:55-10:25 Wed 3:50-6:55-10:05 Thu 12:35-3:50-6:55-10:05
Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Metropolitan Opera: La Clemenza Di Tito Live (STC) Sat 12:55
Pitch Perfect (PG) Fri 2:10-4:50-7:30-10:20 Sat 4:50-7:30-10:20 Sun 4:10-7:15-9:45 Mon-Tue 1:10-4:10-7:15-9:45 Wed 1:10-4:10-9:45 Thu 1:10-4:10-7:15-9:45
Red Dawn (PG) Fri 12:55-3:25-5:55-8:25-10:55 Sat 1:10-3:25-5:55-8:25-10:55 Sun-Thu 12:30-2:55-5:25-7:35-10:05
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri 12:35 Sat 11:05-12:10 Sun-Tue 12:20 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1 Thu 12:20
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri-Sat 2:40-5:15-7:45-10:15 Sun-Tue 2:40-5:20-7:45-10:15 Wed 3:20-5:45-7:55-10:15 Thu 2:40-5:20-7:45-10:15
Skyfall (PG) Fri-Sat 12:25-3:40-7-10:25 Sun-Thu 12:25-3:30-6:50-10
Skyfall: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Sat 12:50-4:10-7:30-11 Sun-Thu 12:40-4-7:20-10:30
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG) Fri 1:40-2:20-4:30-5:10-7:20-7:50-10:10-10:50 Sat 11:10-11:35-1:40-2:20-4:30-5:10-7:20-7:50-10:10-10:50 Sun-Mon 1:25-2:05-4:15-4:55-7:05-7:35-9:55-10:35 Wed 1:25-2:05-4:15-4:55-7:05-7:35-10-10:25 Thu 1:25-2:05-4:15-4:55-7:05-7:35-9:55-10:25
Wreck-It Ralph (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20 Sat 11:15
Wreck-It Ralph 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 2:55-5:30-8:05-10:35 Sun-Thu 2:55-5:10-7:50-10:10

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2. HANDOUT

Living with an alien

Remember that wisecracking fur-ball who looked like a cross between an ewok and an aardvark? ALF, the surly man-child from planet Melmac who crashed through the Tanner family's garage in 1986, is getting a reboot. Jordan Kerner, the producer behind The Smurfs' big screen revival last year, is pulling the strings on a Sony Pictures CG/live action feature film. While living with an alien may have a couple minor drawbacks, for the most part extraterrestrials of the friendly persuasion make enviable housemates.

MIKE DOJC
scene@metronews.ca

The Housekeeper: Clark "Kal-El" Kent (Smallville)

Pencil Superman in every slot on the chore wheel and there won't be any complaints. The Kryptonian could fold laundry, do the dishes, sweep the floor, and mow the lawn during a commercial break. He'd also be a great camping buddy. If the beers got warm, he could just blow his frosty breath on them and they'd be ice cold, and there would never be any problems starting a fire — hello heat vision. His super strength would also come in handy when that stubborn pickle jar refused to open or you needed to rearrange furniture.

The Tutor: Spock (Star Trek)

The Starship Enterprise's pointy-eared science officer could handle a litany of brain straining drudgery from that spreadsheet your boss asked for to bookkeeping and your nephew's math assignment without breaking a sweat. There would be no drama either, as Vulcans don't lie and passive aggression is illogical. But be careful if this becomes a long-term arrangement. Every seven years Vulcans experience the need to mate, known as "pon farr", so you'd be advised to take the girlfriend on vacation when his primal urges begin to manifest.

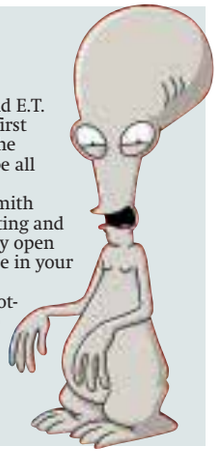
The Rainmaker: The Great Gazoo (The Flintstones)

It'd be easy to get past the incessant "dumb dumb," taunts when this insouciant little green floating man's magic is working for you. Maybe he can even make Betty Rubble real for a couple hours so you can finally strike that Bedrock fantasy off your list. You may want to keep your chit-chat to a minimum when you're out in public with the guy, as the only people who can see him are those who believe in him.

The Wingman: Dr. Who (Dr. Who)

Slinky supermodels somewhere in the space-time continuum are bound to consider you to be a studly specimen. Even if you strikeout, the Timelord could grant you a couple do-overs before your desperate measures start ripping the very fabric of space and time. If you've got a cramped crib, using the TARDIS (the 1960s-style London police box which functions as the doc's spaceship and is a lot bigger on the inside than it appears on the outside) as a storage solution would be a real mod style statement.

The Bartender: Roger (American Dad)



Sure, his hydrocephalic noggin and E.T. arms will have guests fainting at first sight, but once they come to and he pours them a couple drinks, it'll be all good.

His bar, Roger's Place, in the Smith family attic, often doubles as plotting and scheming central and he can easily open up a franchise of the watering-hole in your home.

And everybody knows more plotting and scheming is the secret to a life less ordinary.

The Entertainer: Mork from Ork (Mork & Mindy)

The bushy haired Orkan with the rainbow suspenders can be relied on to kill at a dinner party. While his zany antics — like drinking water with his finger and wearing clothes backwards — are enough to keep a party in stitches, his otherworldly schtick is also laced with witty cultural references, allowing for a hilarious blend of both low and highbrow yuks.

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CRAFT BEER MIGHT BE AN ACQUIRED TASTE, BUT LOCAL SPECIALISTS MILOS KRAL AND A. PAUL MITCHELL ARE HERE TO HELP. ALSO, KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR A MONTHLY FEATURE – COMING SOON – FOR THE LATEST IN CRAFT BEER.

TAP INTO QUALITY BREWS EXPERIENCE LOCAL TASTES

Meet Milos Kral, owner of Milos Craft Beer Emporium, home of craft beer here in London. A great person to talk beer with, Kral is the winner of the Editor's Circle award of the Golden Tap Awards.

Known in the beer circles as an extremely passionate craft beer supporter, Kral spends his days off travelling to breweries and other pubs, soaking in as much beer information as possible. He also takes advantage of Twitter, where he posts frequent messages about what's new at Milos, which is great for fans of the establishment as they know what to expect when they walk in the front door.

"There is very good beer all over Ontario and we drove all over the province to get it," says Kral. "People need to know about this beer. I live by offering craft beer. Why wouldn't we all want to support our own (craft) breweries instead of some faceless multi-national brewery?"

MARKETING A GREAT TASTE

Monitoring how craft beer is marketed in Ontario continues to be a passion for A. Paul Mitchell. He feels that the growth in product offerings by the province's many craft brewers is a boon for beer drinkers.

"There are many talented brew-masters," Mitchell says, "pushing the envelope of beer-making and experimenting with new ingredients and flavour combinations. There has never been a better time to discover something new."

Mitchell's search for the latest releases to write about is an adventure he finds particularly enjoyable and rewarding.

"There are such diverse beer styles continuously arriving from breweries. Tasting is a fun opportunity that does not require a lot of effort. London has several great pubs that are keeping up with what breweries are doing."

Mitchell has been the restaurant critic for Metro News London's weekly Lunch Rush column and has a wealth of experience from his 19 years within the marketing and hospitality industries. He enjoys sharing his knowledge about Ontario's craft beers and writing articles on the subject.

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FRESH THINKING HEALTHY EATING

Up and coming pop superstar deals with inevitable comparisons, label problems

New music. The Diamonds singer, who saw some initial success in 2010, is back once again with a new album and approach

LUKE O'NEIL
scene@metronews.ca

Somebody thought this woman wasn't attractive enough to be a popstar? CASPAR BALSLEV

Upon the release of her 2010 debut LP, The Family Jewels, it was immediately apparent to anyone paying attention that Marina Diamandis, a.k.a. Marina and the Diamonds, was a bona fide international pop star in the making.

She had the acrobatic voice, indelible hooks and a crush-worthy look (more on that in a minute), but there was a knowingness about the idea of pop-stardom in general embedded in her lyrics that made her appealing to fans who take their pop with a dash of irony.

Quoted

"I think most people who work with him get his sound. Katy (Perry) was his first huge success."

Marina Diamandis
Talking about working with Dr. Luke, the man behind Katy Perry.

On her recent release, Electra Heart, the Welsh singer has doubled-down on the reaching-for-the-stars conceit, enlisting the aid of hit-making songwriters like Dr. Luke, Benny Blanco and Diplo.

It's Dr. Luke's effort on her first single, How to be a Heartbreaker, that has brought about so many comparisons to another pop star, Katy Perry, albeit with qualifiers like "edgier."

Is that supposed to be taken as a compliment or an insult?

"It's neither," says Diamandis. "It's not like an insult or a compliment, it's just not true. The thing is, with Dr. Luke, his style is so cemented, I think most people who work with him get his sound. Katy was his first huge success, so it's obvious I'm compared to her. I'm just like, 'Oh, whatever.'"

Also getting a big whatever was her record label's decision in September to delay the release of the Heartbreaker video because, well, they didn't think she looked attractive enough.

She got a call from her manager saying the label didn't like it, she explains: "'They think you need some beauty work,' he said. I said, 'I don't care if they think I'm ugly or not, they need to give me a budget if they want me to look botoxed within an inch of my life.'"

Not that she has a problem with that, she says. "I really don't mind. Everything on the album has been in spirit of that plastic pop element."

Serena Ryder finds broad appeal with new album

New music. Ryder goes for wider appeal with a folk-rock approach that draws on a range of musical influences

Toronto power vocalist Serena Ryder was at home but in foreign territory while recording her new album, Harmony.

The three-time Juno Award winner with the soulful three-octave range made the tracks in her own backyard studio, a cosy shed she'd previously only used as a rehearsal space. Another first: the Weak in the Knees singer-songwriter penned the tunes while falling in love.

And she actually had fun while making the disc, a feeling she admits wasn't predominant in her recording sessions of yore.

The result is a feel-good, catchy collection that touches on a wide range of genres, giving Ryder a broader appeal than the blues-folk-rock categories she's typically been associated with.

"With this record, I feel like it was very, very primal and animalistic and I wasn't really thinking about what direction I'm going to go in," Ryder, who turns 30 on Dec. 8, said in a recent interview.

"I was like, 'I want go in all directions,' because the most frustrating thing that's been the bane of my existence and my career has been people (saying), 'Serena, you've got to pick a style or you're going to confuse people,' ... and I started really believing that. I was like, 'OK, I've got to pick one way of being and one way of singing and one way of branding myself,'" she continued, sitting at a piano in her studio shed that's adorned with vintage furniture and a vast array of instruments.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

65 songs

Follow up effort to Is it O.K. album

- **Hard at work.** Over a period of roughly eight months this year, she feverishly wrote about 65 songs in an effort to craft a followup to her previous album, 2008's Is it O.K., which won a Juno in 2010 for video of the year (Little Bit Of Red).

Serena Ryder, the three-time Juno Award winner with the soulful three-octave range, made tracks in her own backyard studio. HANDOUT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Demi Moore ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Moore on the mend: Is a half-her-age hunk helping her heal?

Demi Moore has reportedly moved on from her year-old split from Ashton Kutcher and is now dating 26-year-old art dealer Vito Schnabel, according to People magazine. Moore, who recently celebrated her 50th birthday, and Schnabel were reportedly "dancing and grinding all over each other" at a recent party in Jodhpur, India, thrown by Naomi Campbell. "It's really happening," a source says of the pairing. "There was a time when Vito was kind of cool with (Kutcher), so it seems a little weird." Moore and Schnabel are expected to attend the upcoming Art Basel celebration in Miami.

Twitter

@TheRealRoseanne
I haven't conceded the election since my votes in 24 states have NOT BEEN COUNTED yet! what kind of system do we have-a winner b4 the count?

@Joan_Rivers
Lindsay Lohan was just arrested in NYC for allegedly punching a woman in the face. 50 bucks says it was a TV critic who hated "Liz & Dick".

@carrieunderwood
That awkward moment when you wave at a cute little girl and the dude standing right in front of her thinks you're flirting with him!

@GarryShandling
Big day: Just paid-off my student loan!

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Pull out the pre-written, Lindsay Lohan story template

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

With all the divorces, marriages and arrests I report on, being a gossip columnist can sometimes feel like being in Groundhog's Day — and Lindsay Lohan is my Ned Ryerson.

Yes, the troubled starlet was arrested yet again for punching another woman at a New York City nightclub around 4 a.m. on Thursday morning. Lohan apparently was "partying hard" at the club, called Avenue, and was "looking for trouble," a source tells RadarOnline. That trouble manifested itself through a clubgoer named Tiffany Eve Mitchell. Apparently, Mitchell asked Lohan for a photograph. Lohan, who was "drinking heavily and doing cocaine," said no and was "really rude about it." Mitchell kept dancing but Lohan wouldn't let this infraction go. Again, from another eye-witness: "She totally sucker-punched that girl in the face out of nowhere! Nobody saw it coming," RadarOnline.com reports. "Lindsay went wild. She was kicking and screaming, cursing at the girl and then spat at her. The girl looked like she wanted to fight back at Lindsay, but was too startled by all the commotion to react."

So, the cops were called. Lohan was spotted attempting to leave the club, hopping into the passenger seat of her car before cops pulled her out and arrested her. Lohan was heard yelling, "Are you kidding me?" as she was led away, a source says.

She was released four hours later and given a citation and a court date. Being a refined wordsmith, I'm not good at math, but by my calculation, that is probably her one millionth court appointment to date.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Halle Berry

Halle's den of drama for sale, but she's waiting for the Berry best offer

Halle Berry is reportedly selling the Hollywood Hills mansion where her recent Thanksgiving celebrations ended in a brawl between fiancé Olivier Martinez and ex-boyfriend Gabriel Aubry, according to Hollyscoop. But the Oscar winner isn't unloading it because of the recent bad memories. Berry secretly listed the five-bedroom, 5,900 square-foot home a couple of weeks before Thanksgiving and received an $11 million offer last week, but she's holding out for more.

Two and a Half Men star to return to sitcom after slinging mud

Despite making news with a video in which he called Two and a Half Men filth and urged viewers to stop watching, Angus T. Jones will be returning to the hit sitcom when production picks back up in January, according to TMZ.

"Angus expects to report to work after the holiday break," a source says.

"He intends to honour his contract through the end of the season."

Angus T. Jones

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Give Martha Stewart a run for her money

First dinner party. Here are some tips to ensure your guests enjoy their evening

EMMA GODMERE
life@metronews.ca

Sure, beer and pizza are perennial party favourites.

But treating guests to a home-cooked meal? Now there's a delicious accomplishment.

Planning your first dinner party may sound like a heaping helping of work.

But if you're not the type to keep coasters and cocktail napkins on hand, have no fear: playing host isn't all that hard.

You don't even have to have a full-fledged dining room. Ottawa food blogger Kelly Brisson regularly seats her dinner guests around a large, folding card table that she easily stores away.

"Once the food's on it, no one really looks at the table anyway," she laughs.

Brisson has written about crafting simple, savoury meals on her blog, The Gouda Life, for the last four years, and is well-versed on dinner party do's and don'ts.

The first thing a new host or hostess should keep in mind, she suggests, is keeping a cool head.

"You really want to spend the day enjoying the process of cooking and just setting up the table the day of the party," she says.

Reduce your day-of duties by tidying your space the day before and preparing side dishes in advance that can be easily reheated prior to your guests' arrival.

When it comes to the feat of the feast, consider items that you have cooked up before, or that you're comfortable making and know taste great.

Preparation is one of the keys to a dinner party. ISTOCK

Keep friends' dietary restrictions in mind as you plan your menu. No one should feel left out or think they have to bring their own dish.

That said, if a guest offers to bring something, it's smart to accept. "Let them help you out," says Brisson.

Stock up on ice, Brisson suggests, and have some extra wine and non-alcoholic beverages on hand. Another tip: Craft a special cocktail to offer guests as they arrive. "It makes people feel welcome and it gives you something to talk about — a bit of an icebreaker."

Most importantly? Have fun. "It's just dinner — whoever you've having over is there to eat and enjoy your company," she sums up.

The last of the firsts

This is the final in a weeklong series of articles chronicling some of the rites of passage many of Metro's readers will experience as they leave the nest or school and head out on their own.

- **Share.** Have you ever thrown a dinner party? Any tips you'd like to share in making it a success? Visit metronews.ca/features/firsts, tweet us or even turn to the person next to you and share your stories.

Easy appetizer. Roasted Curry Cauliflower Dip

1. Preheat oven to 375 F. Place cauliflower, garlic cloves, curry, cumin, cinnamon and salt into bowl. Drizzle with olive oil. Toss onto baking sheet and roast 15 minutes, until edges of florets are golden brown. Flip and roast another 8 minutes until everything is golden and fork-tender.

2. Place in food processor with Greek yogurt, lemon juice and a drizzle of olive oil and blend until smooth. Taste for seasoning and add more salt if necessary. Spoon into large bowl, add a touch more olive oil and sprinkle of cayenne pepper. Serve with veggies and pita.

- 1 head cauliflower, cut into bite-sized florets
- 4 cloves garlic, whole
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) curry powder
- 1/4 tsp (1ml) ground cumin
- pinch cinnamon and salt
- olive oil
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) plain Greek yogurt
- 1 to 2 tbsp (15 to 30 ml) lemon juice
- cayenne pepper, to garnish (optional)

PHOTO AND RECIPE COURTESY OF KELLY BRISSON, THEGOUDALIFE.CA

Liquid Assets

Excellent dinner mates

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
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While I like having people over to the house as much as the next guy, plotting a dinner party ranks just below ironing on my list of things I can't stand doing. I know I'm in the minority.

With more and more people DIYing their homesteads into dream palaces, the inclination to have friends over to enjoy the fruits of their labours — during a nice meal accented with a glass of wine — has never been stronger.

Finding an all-purpose dinner wine that will work well with a variety of menus while appealing to a wide range of picky palates isn't easy.

Pinot grigio is my go-to grape on the white side. Italy's Santa Margherita 2011 Pinot Grigio ($16.95 to $21.49) has a crisp, refreshing, lightly citrusy personality that makes a very accommodating table mate.

For a red people-pleaser, think sweet rather than dry. E & J Gallo's 2010 Apothic ($14.99 to $17.99) from California has a cocktail vibe to its ripe, just-crushed red berry fruit flavour, thanks to a supportive backbone of residual sugar. Add a slight chill and it pairs remarkably well with most main courses. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

Make it fancy with Ragu

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Cut brisket into 4 pieces. Warm 2 tbsp of olive oil in heavy, oven-safe saucepan with fitted lid over med-high until sizzling. Toss beef with flour and, after shaking off excess, brown pieces 2 at a time in pan until browned on both sides, 3 mins. per side. Set aside. Add other tbsp olive oil and onion to pan, and cook until just brown. Add garlic and cook until fragrant, 30 seconds. Add red wine, scraping up all bits stuck to pan, and cook until liquid has reduced by half. Add stock, water, tomatoes (break them up with your hands as you add), bay leaves, tomato paste and honey. Stir to combine and add beef back. Cover with a tight fitting lid and cook in oven for 2 hours, until beef is easily shredded. Remove lid and cook for another 30 minutes. Remove from the oven and shred the meat using forks.

2. With 20 minutes left, cook the pasta until al dente according to package instructions. Serve the ragu over pasta and finish with Parmesan, basil and olive oil. Add red pepper flakes for a kick. COURTESY OF KELLY BRISSON, THEGOUDALIFE.CA (ADAPTED FROM DONNA HAY)

Ingredients

- 4-5 lb beef brisket
- 4 tbsp (45 ml) olive oil
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) flour
- 1 onion, halved and sliced
- 3 cloves garlic, peeled and sliced thin
- 1 cup (250 ml) dry red wine
- 2 cups (500 ml) beef stock
- 1 cup (250 ml) water
- 1 lg can plum tomatoes
- 3-4 bay leaves
- 2 tbsp (30ml) tomato paste
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) honey
- 1 lb penne pasta
- 1/2 cup (118 ml) grated Parmesan
- 1/2 cup (118 ml) basil leaves, torn
- good quality olive oil
- red pepper flakes

This Braised Beef Ragu with Penne serves 4 to 6. KELLY BRISSON, THEGOUDALIFE.CA

Have a few gaps in your schedule you're looking to fill?
Whether you're hoping to dance, drink or just relax, check out these hot upcoming events.

MIX OF SIX
Julian Uzielli
london@metronews.ca

The Sheepdogs

Tonight, the Sheepdogs will be playing at London Music Hall (185 Queens Ave.) with openers Yukon Blonde. The classic rock-inspired Saskatoon band shot to fame last year after winning a contest to appear on the cover of Rolling Stone. Their self-titled major label debut album, released in September, debuted at No. 1 in Canada on the Top 200 Soundscan Chart and they show no signs of slowing down. Tickets are $27.50 and available at Grooves, Tequila Rose and Early Bird. Doors at 8 p.m., 19+. Photo courtesy of Atlantic Records.

Blackie and the Rodeo Kings

Tomorrow, Juno winners Blackie and the Rodeo Kings will be playing two shows at Aeolian Hall (795 Dundas St. E.) — one at 5 p.m. and one at 9 p.m. — in support of their latest album, Kings and Queens, which features several collaborations with top female artists like Roseanne Cash and Emmylou Harris. All proceeds from the two shows will go to El Systema Aeolian, a program offering free music training to youth. Tickets are $50 advance at aeolianhall.ca or $55 at the door.
Photo courtesy of Darin Addison.

Movember shave-off

To mark the end of November, David E. White men's emporium (171 Queens Ave.) is hosting its first-ever Great Canadian Mo Shave-Off outside the shop on the corner of Richmond and Queens. Barber chairs will be set up under a tent starting at 9:30 a.m. where mustachioed men can have their faces professionally shaved for $20, with all proceeds going to Movember. By 5 p.m. they hope to have shaved 150 moustaches — which would put them in the Guinness Book of World Records.
Photo courtesy of David E. White.

The Importance of Being Earnest

The King's University College Players opened their production of The Importance of Being Earnest yesterday at the ARTS Project (203 Dundas St.), and will be running tonight and tomorrow only. The classic play by British humourist Oscar Wilde was written as a satire of Victorian social conventions, but remains as funny today as it ever was—Wilde's razor-sharp wit hasn't dulled a bit since the play's first run in 1895. Tickets are $10 for students and $15 for adults, and available at the door. Shows start at 7:30.
Photo courtesy of Meghan Hunt.

Doris McCarthy's latest exhibit

Tomorrow night, Michael Gibson Gallery (157 Carling St.) will host the opening reception for its latest exhibit, Doris McCarthy: Selected Works 1963-2005. McCarthy, who died in 2010 at the age of 100, was mentored by members of the Group of Seven and became one of Canada's most celebrated landscape artists. The reception runs from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1, and is open to the public. The exhibition runs until Dec. 29.
Pictured: Doris McCarthy's The Stream from the Foothills, Oil on Canvas courtesy of Michael Gibson Gallery.

Evening Hymns with Sam Allen

Tomorrow night, local independent artist Sam Allen will be playing at the Craven Cottage (57 Evergreen Ave.) at 8 p.m. A major face on London's arts and music scenes for the past few years, Allen's tunes will be a great start to the night, with the show to be headlined by Toronto indie folk outfit Evening Hymns. Just back from a European tour, the band has spent the past month crisscrossing Canada, and this will be one of their final shows. At only $5, there aren't many reasons not to come out to the Cottage.

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HOLIDAY 2012 m gift guide

Take a byte out of the holidays

Galaxy Nexus 10 — $399.99 and up, below, MacBook Pro with Retina Display — $1,699 and up, bottom right, new iMac — $1,299 and up, bottom left.

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Computers and tablets are always popular gifts during the holidays. Unfortunately, people are often lured by sales and promotions and fall into the trap of buying the wrong one.

Here's a look at the best tablets and computers so you don't disappoint your loved one this holiday season.

iPad Mini — $329 and up

All the features of Apple's iPad in a model you can hold in one hand. The iPad Mini is the perfect tablet for those on the move. It's small-form factor and light weight means you can stuff it into any bag or purse, yet it can do everything a full-sized iPad can do.

Surface — $499 and up

Microsoft's Surface has features not seen on other tablets. For starters, it comes preloaded with Windows 8, a new take on the classic stuffy operating system. A built-in kickstand gives you freedom to prop it up on any surface, while the Touch Cover (sold separately) not only protects the screen, it doubles as a keyboard. Surface also has a USB port that allows connectivity to many devices, including printers.

New iMac — $1,299 and up

Never has a computer looked this beautiful. Apple's new iMac is a mere five millimetres thin at its outer edge and has 40 per cent less volume than the previous generation. Beautiful yes, but it's also powerful. The latest iMacs contain third-generation Intel processors and has the option of a Fusion-Drive, which combines a traditional hard drive with Flash storage to ensure the programs you use the most launch from Flash storage at lightning speed.

Galaxy Nexus 10 — $399.99 and up

Behold the tablet with the amazing screen. Google's Nexus 10 sports the highest resolution on any tablet with more than 4 million pixels in your hand; that's even more than Apple's new iPad. The beautiful screen makes it perfect to use it as an entertainment device, although it will handle any work you throw at it.

HP SpectreOne — $1,299

Art meets technology. HP's SpectreOne looks like a traditional all-in-one PC, but its looks are deceiving. This Windows 8 PC features a 23.6-inch monitor that is actually a 10-point touchscreen display, so you can simply touch the screen instead of using the touchpad or keyboard. The SpectreOne also features a Beats Audio headphone jack and HDMI-in so you can watch external devices on the beautiful display.

Sony Vaio Tap 20 — $1,089.99

Is it an all-in-one computer or a tablet? Well, it's both. The secret is in the battery hidden in the screen. Since you don't have to plug it in, you can take the Tap 20 anywhere and use it as a tablet. Or set it up on a flat surface, pull out the keyboard and mouse and use it as a full-fledged computer. With a 20-inch screen it's certainly a large tablet, but who says that's a bad thing.

MacBook Pro with Retina Display — $1,699 and up

Spoil your eyes with Apple's latest MacBook Pro. This 13-inch laptop features state-of-the-art processors, amazing graphics capabilities and Flash storage. But the screen is the real draw here. It may be a bit pricier than many laptops in the same size category, but once you feast your eyes on the Retina display, you will have issues using anything else. Seeing is believing.

iPad Mini — $329 and up, left, Sony Vaio Tap 20 — $1,089.99, top left, HP SpectreOne — $1,299, above, Surface — $499 and up.

Correction

The Panasonic Lumix DMC-ZS20 retails for $379 and does not have 3-D capabilities. Incorrect information appeared in last week's Holiday Gift Guide. Metro regrets the error.

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A screen shot from Assassin's Creed III, the third game in the series that features vast expanses to play in as well as a plethora of weapons. CONTRIBUTED

Aim for these hot video game titles

KAREN FALCON
For Metro

If you have a gamer on your list, we're here to help.

We've played a bunch of stuff (all less than $60 MSRP) and narrowed it down to the hottest titles available this holiday season.

Just remember to buy two — one for them, and one for you.

FOR THE TEEN GAMER AND OLDER:
Borderlands 2
Multi-platform: M

Best shooter! Best RPG! Best DLC (with promises of more)! Best characters! Best (and most) guns in all of video game land! We're pretty sure this is the best of everything and it's all rolled into one package of awesomeness.

I don't know how else to tell you this might be "the" game to gift. It's just that good. The single player is grand, the co-op is equally as grand, and the DLC just makes me smile.

Not sure if you have heard, but lootin' 'n shootin' are the most fantastic things since sliced bread. Well, that and reloading, tossing out the empty clip, and having it explode like a grenade.

We don't think there's anything more enjoyable than reloading and yelling "frag out." Nope, nuthin'.

Halo 4
Xbox 360: M

Wake up, Master Chief! Wake up! It's time to wander around space in your Spartan suit while looking really cool, shooting aliens, and being surrounded with the best graphics we've seen in recent memory. Wow — just wow. Full of everything you expect from the franchise plus a whole lot more — this instalment is the beginning of a whole new saga to save mankind. With new enemies and new ways to track your stats, you can co-op and/or multiplayer your way through this award-winning blockbuster game all the way into 2014. And you know you can make your own multiplayer maps, too, right?

Assassin's Creed III
Multi-platform: M

Free-running is where it's at and you'll need to set aside three solid weeks of your life to do it. Set in Boston, New York, and the frontier, overflowing with incredible attention to detail, the third game in this series does not disappoint. With a new engine, vast expanses to play in, tree canopies to run through, beavers to assassinate, and ships to sail across the seas, staying incognito has never been a more enjoyable challenge. As America's first highly trained Master Assassin, you get a plethora of weapons: Swords, a bow and arrow, some rope darts, a bunch of other stuff, and a tomahawk. Tomahawks are fun — you'll see.

Forza Horizon
Xbox 360: T

Dirt tracks, music festivals, and graphics that will knock your socks off — yes, Forza Horizon is all that and more. No longer the straight-laced racing sim you've come to associate with the name Forza, this title is more like an open-world, racing fun exploring explosion. With hidden cars, 250 events, and a solid AI that takes solo or multiplayer racing into a whole new experience, new fans and old will be driving through signs, painting their cars, destroying some landscaping, and racing their dream cars against aeroplanes. Yes, I said aeroplanes. So good.

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Gaming gifts that amuse — and enlighten

KAREN FALCON
For Metro

More hot video game titles, this time for the kid gamer (and their parents, too).

Lego The Lord of The Rings
Multi-platform: E10+
Take a little hobbit, turn him into Lego, give him a bunch of friends and a shovel, send him out into a vast Lego universe to protect a ring, and you end up with a monumental adventure full of epic battles, Lego bows, and Lego swords. With more playable characters than you can shake a wizard at, this two-player drop-in/drop-out action-adventure game can be played pretty much until your hands fall off. What's cuter than a Lego hobbit? Mom playing as Gandalf, that's what.

And then there's motion-sensitive gaming. It's like crack for kids. But it's magic — they don't know they're learning stuff but they are.

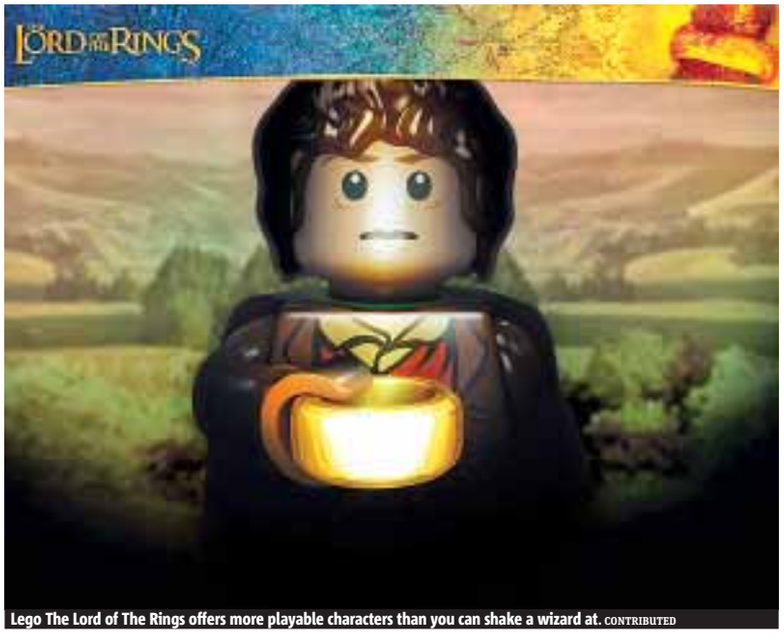
Education and gaming together, you say? How?

Specifically for the Xbox 360, it's the Kinect Sensor peripheral ($109 MSRP), and the following whack of engaging titles is readily available for you to gift in the name of fun and learning.

Kinect Sesame Street
If you take real segments from Sesame Street and add motion-sensitive gaming, you get a one-of-a-kind interactive learning experience. Rated Early Childhood, this immersive title allows your child to play catch with Elmo, count coconuts with Grover, use voice commands to take pictures, and engage with some of their other favourite Sesame Street characters.

Nat Geo TV: E10+
Rwaar! I'm a bear! You can be a bear and you can learn about bears. Never before has discovering the natural world been so interactive — right in your own living room. With the brilliant combination of live-action footage from Nat Geo WILD TV, tiny quizzes and breaks for motion-sensitive mini-games.

Dance Central 3: T
Four decades of dance moves will have your kids learning original routines while dancing (a.k.a. working out, but don't tell them that) and wearing out the carpet. Seriously voice controlled and packed with more than 40 songs from yesterday and today, Dance Central 3 also includes a brand spanking new multiplayer mode for up to eight players. Your kids need this – at the very least so you can do the hustle with them and six of their very best friends.



Lego The Lord of The Rings offers more playable characters than you can shake a wizard at. CONTRIBUTED

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Roy LeBlanc as Elvis, Dominique Le Blanc in Annie; Kids meet Toto at Huron Country Playhouse; Ian Deakin, Jayme Armstrong and Terry Barna in The Love List The cast of Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story

Hot holiday finds for the hostess

Holiday Red Carafe, $38.45, Christmas blend, $18.95, available at Starbucks, starbucks.ca.

Limited Edition Nutcracker with Chocolates, $25, available at Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca.

Stockholm Tray, $19.99, available at Ikea, ikea.com.

Brass Wine Bucket, $59.99, available at Homesense, homesense.ca.

Cranberry Cosmo Set, $12.99, available at Shoppers Drug Mart, shoppersdrugmart.ca.

Winter Snowfall Dinnerware Set, $39.99, available at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

Cabin Sock Candy Tins – Maple Crunch, $12.95, available at Roots, canada.roots.com.

President's Choice Belgian Assorted Biscuit Collection, $4.99, available where President's Choice products are sold, presidentschoice.ca.

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Hurry! Offer ends December 31, 2012.

Good call

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Lynden Park Mall
Mapleview Shopping Centre
Markville Shopping Centre
Masonville Place
Milton Mall
New Sudbury Centre
Northgate Shopping Centre
Oakville Place
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White Oaks Mall
Woodbine Centre
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NHL lockout

No progress after mediation

Two days of mediation was unable to push the NHL and NHL Players' Association closer to a new collective bargaining agreement.

No progress was reported after a series of meetings with U.S. federal mediators Scot L. Beckenbaugh and John Sweeney in Woodbridge, N.J.

"After spending several hours with both sides over two days, the presiding mediators concluded that the parties remained far apart, and that no progress toward a resolution could be made through further mediation at this point in time," deputy commissioner Bill Daly said Thursday in a statement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Wild goalie diagnosed with multiple sclerosis

Minnesota Wild goalie Josh Harding has been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

The Wild confirmed Thursday that Harding is undergoing treatment for the disease, which attacks the body's immune system and affects the central nervous system.

The 28-year-old Harding told the Minneapolis Star Tribune he plans to keep playing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Josh Harding
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Coyotes captain Shane Doan sent out word that there would be a mini-camp this week, luring players to Scottsdale, Ariz. About 30 players showed up to work out and play in scrimmages simulating game speed. CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Arizona an oasis for locked-out NHLers

Looking for action. Players from across North America descend on star-studded scrimmages in desert

Quoted

"It just picks up the competitiveness and everyone wants to prove that they're capable of playing and it's a lot of fun."

Phoenix Coyotes captain Shane Doan

Phoenix Coyotes goalie Mike Smith lowered into a crouch as the odd-man rush developed in front of him.

The puck went to the left wing and he followed, lodging his skate against the post. A touch pass sent the puck across the front of Smith's crease and he slid over in a flash, whipping his right pad out for a sprawling save, setting off a collective "Oh!" from fans lining the glass behind him.

NHL players on the ice, competing hard, fans cheering them on — it almost felt like a real game.

Of course, it was only a scrimmage in front of a couple hundred people at the Coyotes' practice facility, but as the NHL lockout drags on, fans — and the players — will take anything they can get.

"This is awesome," said Jane Pittet of Scottsdale, Ariz., who left work to catch Thursday's workout at the Ice Den. "I wish it were the real thing, but this is fun to watch."

The Phoenix Coyotes have been holding informal workouts at their practice rink since the lockout started and this week were joined by more than a dozen players from around the league.

Pittsburgh star Sidney Crosby, San Jose forward Patrick Marleau, Buffalo goalie Ryan Miller and Dallas forward Brendan Morrow all made the trip to the desert to skate with the Coyotes.

It was a chance to step up in competition and play against someone other than their teammates.

"It was fun to be out there and, OK, I've actually got to stop this puck," Miller said. "I kind of tried to pretend I was back in front of the home crowd and had to make a stop, so it was good."

The Coyotes have had good turnouts for their player-organized workouts, skating with a dozen or so players who haven't gone to play overseas or in the AHL, while a handful of players from other teams have occasionally joined in.

Crosby helped organize a couple of gatherings in Dallas and Vail, Colo., and the group headed to Arizona this week to join the Coyotes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Buehrle won't be bullied by pit bull ban

New Blue Jays pitcher Mark Buehrle delivers a pitch against the Washington Nationals on Sept. 8. NED DISHMAN/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Mark Buehrle, one of the newest Blue Jays and a proud pit bull owner, says he will add his voice to those calling for an end to Ontario's seven-year ban of the allegedly dangerous pets.

"I think it's a discriminatory law," Buehrle said Thursday via conference call, adding that he and his wife, Jamie, have already made contact with advocacy groups in Ontario. "We are big spokesmen of it and we're trying to do what we can do to try to help other people out."

Acquired by the Jays this month in a 12-player trade with the Miami Marlins, Buehrle has yet to arrive in the city and may not even end up living here.

Quoted

"Trust me, I will be behind him every step of the way."

Toronto NDP MPP Cheri Di Novo, who has been leading the fight against the pit bull ban

But when he gets to Toronto next season, his impact could extend far beyond what he does on the pitching mound.

The movement to repeal Ontario's controversial prohibition of pit bull-type dogs has gained momentum in recent years as it inches closer and closer to its goal. Buehrle's celebrity endorsement could be what the campaign needs to succeed. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Changing stances

Bill 16, a private member's bill to repeal the ban, passed second reading in legislature but was denied by the governing Liberals.

- Ohio removed pit bulls from their definition of "vicious" dogs in May, the Netherlands repealed their 15-year ban in 2009, Vancouver in 2005 and Delta, B.C., in 2011.

4 SPORTS

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Sinclair snubbed for soccer award

Player of the year. Canada soccer coach says lack of knowledge on women's game is to blame for voting results

Canadian international Christine Sinclair won't be on the shortlist for this year's FIFA player of the year award. GETTY IMAGES FILE

John Herdman says it's a "travesty" that Canada's soccer captain Christine Sinclair has been snubbed for FIFA's women's player of the year award.

But the coach of the Canadian team that captured bronze at the London Olympics said a lack of knowledge about the women's game is more to blame than any malicious intent.

And besides, the coach added, international recognition isn't what his star striker plays for.

"It's a travesty," Herdman said from Vancouver. "A player who can score a hat trick in a semifinal and lead her country to the first (Olympic team) medal since 1936, the first time Canada's ever been on a (soccer) podium at one of these events, and still be one of the leading scorers in the world ... and she can't get in the top three.

"There's something wrong somewhere. But at the end of the day, you don't want to be pointing fingers at people. It is what it is."

The 29-year-old from Burnaby, B.C., led Canada to bronze in London in spectacular fashion, scoring an Olympic-record six goals to win the Golden Boot. She recorded a hat trick in a 4-3 extra-time semifinal loss to the U.S.

Americans Abby Wambach and Alex Morgan and Brazil's Marta make up the final three, after a vote by national team coaches, captains and reporters. The winner will be announced in Switzerland on Jan. 7.

Herdman voted for Sinclair, Wambach and Camille Abily of France.

Sinclair, Canada's flagbearer at the closing ceremonies in London, was suspended four matches by the sport's governing body for comments she made after Canada's semifinal loss to the U.S.

Sinclair has been on the shortlist six times in her career.

But it wasn't to be, and her supporters quickly took to Twitter to voice their outrage, some accusing FIFA of blackballing the Canadian.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Horoscopes

Aries
March 21 - April 20
Life is good and getting better by the moment but for some strange reason you seem to be fearing the worst at the moment. Don't worry, whatever disaster you think is lurking round the next corner will fail to materialize.

Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Steer clear of disputes and disagreements that have nothing directly to do with you. If you allow yourself to be dragged in by one side or the other, you may never get out again — and you'll lose friends on both sides.

Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You have worked hard to get to your present position in life, so don't feel guilty just because not everyone hasn't been as fortunate as you. Lady Luck smiles most on those who deserve it — and you do.

Cancer
June 22 - July 23
An opportunity to get on in the world will arrive out of the blue today or over the weekend. It could mean a promotion but it could also mean that you pack a bag and travel to some exotic land.

Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You have accomplished a lot this year but you know you are capable of more, so step up a gear and let the world know what a special individual you are. The planets will do something to give you a push today.

Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You need to get over the idea that everyone sees the world the same way as you. If nothing else, it puts you at a disadvantage by making it hard for you to take on board other people's insights and discoveries.

Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You must find time in your busy schedule to let partners and loved ones know how much you care for them. On the home front, especially, you seem to have been a bit distant of late. Do some fun things together today.

Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
Don't worry if certain people seem less than enthusiastic about your plans because most likely they are jealous and want to see you fail. You won't, of course. You'll succeed brilliantly and won't let them forget it.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If you do small favours for other people now, they will do big favours for you later on. So, make an effort and make friends with those you interact with both personally and professionally. You may need their help soon.

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
An opportunity to move up in the world will come your way today and you must grab it with both hands. It will certainly mean more work and more responsibility but since when have you been a stranger to those?

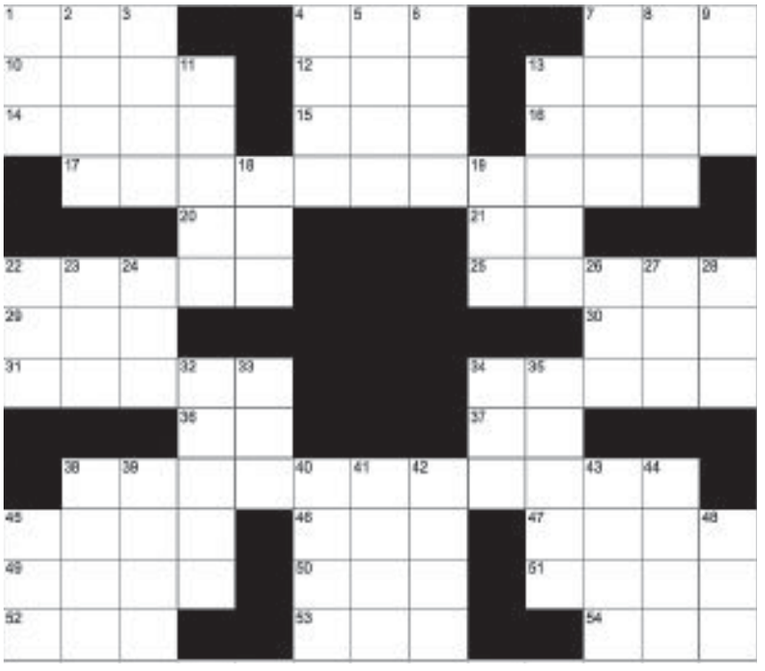
Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You need to make amends for something you did or something you said a while back. It may not have been your intention to be hurtful but the fact is you were and egos can be such fragile things.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Make sure you get the respect you deserve from those you work with. Sometimes you can be a bit too easygoing for your own good but today you really must put your own needs first.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword

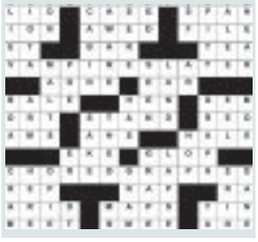
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. Request
4. Wise old bird
7. Alice spin-off
10. Ogle
12. Prior to
13. "A Simple —"
14 Courtroom bargain
15. Plural suffix
16. Flying (prefix)
17. Novice workers
20. "That is" Latin abbr.
21. Gone with the Wind actress Olivia – Havilland
22. Tons
25. Emmy cousin
29. Time Warner cable network (abbr.)
30. Casual greeting
31. Sour
34. Frighten away
36. He played "Dirty Harry" (init.)
37. Ready – Not
38. One who finishes hair (2 words)
45. West Germany capital
46. Yes, to Angus
47. Only
49. Eager
50. Late night weekend skit show (init.)
51. Predecessor of Johnny Carson
52. Microsoft internet site (abbr.)
53. Predatory fish
54. Resort

Down
1. Swiss mountain
2. Actress Ward of Once and Again
3. Save for oneself
4. Sheriff Taylor's son
5. Songbird
6. — We Forget
7. On the lam
8. Phyllis's never seen husband on Mary Tyler Moore
9. Mrs. John Lennon
11. Speedy
13. Walks back and forth
18. Telephone book listing (abbr.)
19. Wedding vows
22. — Na Na
23. Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (abbr.)
24. Agency of Record (abbr.)
26. Part of a Dancing with the Stars dance
27. — Lingus
28. Deli bread
32. Cake covering
33. James Van – Beek of Don't Trust the B—in Apartment 23
34. Sun God
35. Curl
38. Swine
39. Soon
40. Envelope abbr.
41. Actress Daly of Judging Amy
42. Scream
43. Oceans
44. Ensnare
45. Emeril's favourite expression
48. Time frame

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

	5		7		4		8	
			9		5			
8		9				2		7
		4	5		7	1		
7								4
		2	1		9	8		
5		1				3		8
			8		6			
	6		3		1		9	

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